Dudley
CHRONICLE
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FURY OVER CASH SPENT ON iPADS

Report by Jamie Brassington

COUNCIL chiefs in Dudley have been accused of 'wasting taxpayers' cash' after buying new computer equipment – including five new Apple iPads at a cost of £430 each.

The cash-strapped authority – currently in the midst of a savage round of cost-saving measures – bought the new iPads despite already having 42 working devices.

UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood labelled the iPads 'freebies' and described the cost as a 'total waste' of taxpayers' money.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, leader of UKIP in Dudley, said: "I don't support councillors having freebies off the council, whether it is food or iPads."It is a total waste of taxpayers' money.

"UKIP rejected having the equipment. We have our own laptops and mobile phones,

"This is a total lack of judgement. I don't see the need of buying more iPads.

"Why does a councillor need an iPad? I have been a councillor for two years and I can't think of one circumstance when I would need one. If I did I would buy my own."

Flexibility

Councillor Patrick Harley, Conservative leader in Dudley, said: "Cuts are being made to the elderly, poor, and disenfranchised of society and the council go and do something like this – which is to purchase five new iPads when there are 42 in storage.

"They are making cuts and blaming everyone but themselves and buy five new iPads. It is shameless."

The council have bought five iPad Air2 devices this year, at a total cost of £2,104.

A Freedom of Information request revealed the devices were bought to 'provide a productivity tool with access to email, systems and data on an agile basis.'

Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said: "We have a small stock of ICT equipment which is regularly reviewed and assigned to members of staff which helps them carry out their duties with greater flexibility than ever before.

"We do not routinely keep a stock of iPads, those currently held in stores are all earmarked for redistribution to officers as part of the initiatives to introduce smarter working practices in the council and to ensure value for money. In essence, every iPad is in use, being repaired or about to be used. There is no spare capacity and therefore no waste of council money."

In recent weeks Dudley Council has announced plans to save money after Government funding cuts. These include slashing funding for various charities in the borough, moving the art gallery collection out of the town centre, slashing library opening hours and possibly demolishing several blocks of flats in Netherton.

FLYING THE BLACK COUNTRY FLAG WITH PRIDE

Adrian Durkin, council leader Pete Lowe, Steve Edwards (front), Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif and Miss Black Country Abigail Cutler

THE Black Country flag was flown with pride across Dudley as the borough marked Black Country Day on Thursday and during the weekend.

Residents came out in force to celebrate all the region has to offer.

Since its launch in 2012, Black Country Day and its festival has gone from strength to strength.

Dignitaries gathered at Dudley Castle to fly the Black Country flag in front of one of the region's most iconic landmarks.

Festival organiser Steve Edwards said the response from the public this year has been better than ever. He hailed the buzz Black Country Day created on social media as a sign of how support for the event continues to grow.

Sharing

Mr Edwards said: "The turnout was absolutely amazing. The amount of people out on the streets was fantastic but not only that but the reaction on social media was absolutely crazy. People were sharing pictures of the Black Country flag and it went mad online.

"It's always been about bringing the community to the forefront and promoting the region. This has linked the community with councils and businesses which is great. To see people's pride and passion is fantastic."

There was a European twist to the event at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, which jointly celebrated Black Country Day and France's Bastille Day, which had extra significance later that evening due to the terror attack in Nice. French artist Josephine Tournebize flew the Tricolore flag outside her studio at the glass cone.

ART

Museum move will cost up to £150,000

PLANS to move Dudley Museum's collections to a new site out of the town centre will cost up to £150,000, council documents reveal.

The council unveiled plans last month to close Dudley Museum and Art Gallery in Priory Street and move the collection to Dudley Archives in Tipton Road.

A council report estimates closing the venue down will save the cash-strapped authority around £150,000 per year. But it will also cost around that figure as a one-off spend to set up the museum at its new venue.

TRIBUTE

Newly wed Robbie has died, aged 34

TRIBUTES have been made to a popular Stourbridge rugby player who has died, aged 34, after being diagnosed with cancer earlier this year.

Robbie Eves last week married his partner, Gemma. The couple were wed surrounded by friends and family, including sons, Ruaridh, aged four, and Euan, 21 months, at St Thomas' Church in Stourbridge. His brother Alex Eves said: "We lost a truly great man, a devoted family man, the strongest and bravest man I've ever known."

CRAZE

Driver caught out in chase for Pokémon

THE Pokémon Go craze sweeping the country, with thousands using a mobile phone app to catch monsters, has landed a Stourbridge motorist in trouble.

On Monday police pulled over a 27-year-old man suspected of playing the game on his mobile phone while behind the wheel.

The driver was stopped in Birmingham Street at 12.30pm. He was given a penalty penalty notice.

Officers tweeted under the Stourbridge Police account: "Male caught Stourbridge ring road on mobile phone, we suspect Pokémon but the ticket will poke this mon #PokemonGO."

INSIDE

FOLKS GO ON MONSTER HUNT

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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234
E-mail: emma.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01902 319627
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Cuts 'disastrous' for older people

Christine Szygowski

BOSSES of Age UK Dudley have labelled council funding cuts as 'disastrous'.

It comes as council bosses have cut funding to the charity by more than £300,000.

Some of the cuts will take effect from September 30 with the biggest hit being from March 31.

Christine Szygowski, chief executive officer with the charity, said: "For the charity, who help older people across Dudley Borough, this is disastrous and will effect services addressing loneliness and isolation, day opportunities, information and advice and helping people stay safe in their homes.

"Age UK Dudley are working hard to provide some services in different ways but the scale of the cuts will mean that services, jobs and volunteering opportunities will be lost and all to the detriment of older people in Dudley."

Age UK Dudley, previously Age Concern Dudley, aims to enable the people of Dudley to make more of later life. It comes after Dudley Council last week pulled the plug on £250,000 of funding to the charity that runs the Beacon Centre for the Blind.

A day centre for dementia sufferers in Coseley is also set to close in September.

Speaking about the cuts Councillor Qadar Zada, the council's cabinet member for adult social care, said: "In the context of unprecedented cuts to funding from central Government we have been forced to review the services we currently commission.

"We value all the work done by the voluntary sector and recognise it as a key partner for the local authority in supporting us to deliver services differently in the future."

● Dementia centre to close – page 5

Top Church is to get £200k repairs grant

ONE of Dudley's oldest churches, the landmark Top Church, has been given a £200,000 grant for vital repair works.

Church of St Thomas on Vicar Street has received the grant for £189,000 through the HLF's Grants for Places of Worship. It follows another raft of funding of £20,000 received by the church in June.

The latest funding will pay for repairs to windows and access ladders and walkways to the roof of the buildings for maintenance.

New glazing will also be installed to the main entrance through the west doors and cast iron window frames and drainage will be repaired.

It is hoped the funding will increase visitor numbers and improve the appeal and understanding of the building for the community.

Treasured

Canon Andrew Wickens said: "Top Church is one of Dudley town's most beautiful and treasured places.

"We want to listen to what local people have to say, both about what St Thomas's means for them, and to hear fresh ideas about its future, both as a place of worship and as a community space."

Isabel Assaly, regeneration manager at The Churches Conservation, said: "Top Church is one of the most iconic buildings in Dudley and we need to find a way to get the site more actively used. What's at the Top is a fantastic opportunity for the people of Dudley to help shape the future of this much loved building and tell us what you think should happen to this magnetic space."

"We are absolutely delighted with the funding," said Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development. "We need to protect our heritage where we can. We are really pleased the church has been able to get the money.

Councillor Ahmed said the views of the community will be consulted on how the church should be run.

"We would take the community view on how we should be running the church and how it can become an integral part of Dudley," he added.

Back to the 1940s at museum

Bringing an era out of black and white to colour are museum visitors Raechel Smith and Harriet Ball

DUDLEY was transported back to wartime Britain at the Black Country Living Museum's ever popular 1940s Weekend.

More than 3,000 visitors glammed up to celebrate the bygone era, as soldiers and their sweethearts came out in full force.

While ladies put their locks in victory rolls, the gents Brylcreemed their hair or donned tribly hats as the Tipton Road attraction was transformed with vintage stalls, bands and war years displays.

Valerie Gaskill, who has worked as a learning assistant at the museum for 16 years, said: "It is wonderful to see the young ones come and indulge in the 1940s lifestyle and get into character.

"I love to see all the different costumes and hear the older generation speak about what they remember from the time too.

"It brings back a lot of nostaglia that grandparents can show grandchildren what it was really like."

Vintage vehicles also played part in the day which was extended from an evening event to a full weekend five years ago due to popularity.

Caroline Green, 58, from Worcester, said the event brought the era out of the black and white of history books and vintage films and into living colour. She added: "This is the third year we have been coming now after 16 years of re-enacting at 1940s events around the UK. There is something special about the backdrop of the Black Country Living Museum and the people."

Crash victim was riding a stolen motorcycle

A 17-year-old who had been disqualified from driving died after crashing a stolen motorbike into a parked car.

Am inquest heard that Brandon Holt lost control of the Yamaha after going over a speed bump on Wrens Nest Road in Dudley just after 6.10am on Sunday, May 29. The teenager, who did not steal the motorbike himself, had cocaine in his system and was not wearing any safety gear.

He had also been disqualified from driving in March 2015, Black Country Coroner's Court was told.

Collision investigator Pc Justin Williams estimated that after losing control Brandon could have slid along the road with the bike at a speed of up to 51mph. He had crashed into a stationary Fiat Punto at more than 20mph forcing the vehicle up on to the kerb.

But Pc Williams said he was unable to calculate how fast Brandon was travelling on the 30mph road before hitting the speed bump.

The teenager, of Hillside Road, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham but died later that day.

A pathologist confirmed the medical cause of death as abdominal injuries.

The court heard the bike had been stolen earlier that morning and police had since found and dealt with the culprit.

Senior coroner Zafar Siddique recorded a verdict of death as a result of a road traffic collision.

Brandon's brother Mitch Holt said: "He could be naughty but he had a heart of gold. He was my best friend."

Suspected arson at derelict factory

IT is believed arson was the cause of a blaze at derelict factory in Halesowen, which was tackled by more than a dozen firefighters.

Fire crews were called to the scene at Excelsior Business Park on Thursday evening.

West Midlands Fire Service said callers had described 'large flames and smoke' coming from the building.

Twenty firefighters attended the blaze after being drafted in from Haden Cross, Smethwick, Oldbury and Woodgate Valley fire stations. Spokesman Neil Spencer said: "We had a call to Excelsior Industrial Estate on Cakemore Road at 10pm. A number of callers saying there were large flames and smoke coming from the site of the factory unit." Crews left the scene shortly before 1am.

Woman was hurt in two-car crash

A WOMAN was taken to hospital following a two-car crash in Kingswinford.

Police officers were called to the scene on Thursday evening along Bromley Lane.

The injured woman was later discharged.

School told it must take more than 80 extra pupils

A SEDGLEY school that opposed taking pupils from The Coseley School has been forced to accept more than 80 youngsters by the Government.

Youngsters will take up their allocated places at Dormston School in September after the school was told it had no grounds to refuse admitting additional pupils. More than 80 pupils had been offered places at the school following the decision for a phased closure of The Coseley School by 2017.

However, Dormston objected to the additional numbers saying an influx of pupils would leave it unable to cope as it continues to progress after pulling itself out of special measures. School leaders wrote to the Secretary of State over Dudley Council's decision.

The Department for Education upheld the council's decision on Friday, confirming it had acted reasonably in requiring Dormston to accept the pupils. Dudley Council chiefs made it clear to Dormston it should immediately contact parents to arrange inductions, discuss options choices and transition arrangements.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services said: "We've been extremely disappointed Dormston School has objected to accepting a number of additional pupils.

"Since before the start of the consultation on the closure of Coseley in January, Dormston has been aware there would be implications for it and it would need to accommodate additional pupils. Unfortunately it has chosen not to act in the best interest of the children and parents."

Margot delighted by ministerial role

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has been handed a ministerial appointment in Prime Minister Theresa May's new Government.

Ms James was one of the first MPs to back her leadership bid for the Conservative Party in the wake of David Cameron announcing his resignation.

In the week of the EU referendum, Mrs May even travelled to Stourbridge for an EU debate hosted by Ms James.

Ms James has been appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Ms James said: "I am delighted to be joining the ministerial team and will do all I can to support businesses and employees in my new role."

Lawyers stage a charity fun day

A Black Country legal firm is holding a family fun day next month. Brierley Hill-based Higgs & Sons is putting on the event in aid of the Stroke Association at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club onAugust 21, from noon to 3pm.

Homes evacuated due to 'suspect device'

A MAN has been released on bail by police after a 'suspect device' was discovered in a flat in Oldswinford, forcing people to be evacuated from their homes.

A road had to be closed for around 12 hours as the bomb squad was called in to investigate the package found at the address in Danford Close, off Hagley Road. Police were called on Saturday at 12.42pm – and soon put up a 300ft long cordon along the road.

Specialist explosive ordnance disposal officers arrived with a robot to check the package while homes were evacuated. Officers examined a box containing a suspicious device but it was later found to be non-explosive and the cordon was eventually lifted around 1.30am Sunday.

A 25-year-old Stourbridge man was later arrested in Staffordshire and was being questioned by officers. It is understood that the initial call to police was made by an occupant of the flat.

While the cordon was up, dozens of residents, many elderly, were evacuated from their homes as a precaution. Some sought refuge at the nearby Redhill School where food, drink and a place of rest was offered. The Junction Road school is one of a number locations in the Dudley borough which are earmarked as 'emergency sites'.

Several families were also offered the chance to stay the night at the Copthorne Hotel in Merry Hill before returning to their homes on Sunday.

The closure caused traffic problems in Stourbridge, blocking a main route out of the town centre towards Hagley and the M5.

Residents told of their shock. Inge Gordon, who has lived in the street for 22 years, said: "The police officer came to the door and said we only had minutes to leave so I went and grabbed some of our family memorabilia and got out. My husband is in a wheelchair so the police had to assist him out."

Jeff Upperdine, 64, who was visiting a relative in the street, added: "This is a really nice area with quiet and friendly people and not somewhere you would expect this to happen."

A police spokesman said: "Specialist EOD officers examined a box containing a suspicious device, but it was found to be non-explosive."

Keep your donnies off my flag, Bill tells the EU

A BLACK Country UKIP Euro MP has warned 'interfering EU busybodies' not to show their 'fizzogs' in his European Union office after receiving a warning over displaying the Black Country flag.

Dudley's Bill Etheridge has proudly flown the flag from the window of his Brussels office for weeks, but on the eve of Black Country Day the MEP was told to take it down for allegedly breaching EU rules.

Mr Etheridge, who is also a Sedgley councillor for UKIP, said he was 'utterly furious' and branded EU bosses 'disgraceful' for asking him to take the flag down.

He has refused to remove the flag and says he will 'continue to fly it with pride', vowing that anyone attempting to take it down will receive 'a traditional Black Country response'.

A warning letter sent to Mr Etheridge states that 'notices and posters' that are displayed are subject to 'the principles of mutual respect and dignity'.

It adds: "Notices and posters shall not undermine the dignity of Parliament and under no circumstances shall they be offensive or of an inflammatory nature or contradictory to the values on which the Union is founded."

Security

The letter warns infringement of the rules would lead to such material being removed by ushers or the security services at the Parliament.

Mr Etheridge, who campaigned for Britain to leave the EU in the referendum, said: "So the EU think a flag identifying the proud cultural heritage of the Black Country may be deemed offensive? What an insult.

"I find the heavy-handed, constant interference of these EU busybodies offensive and disgraceful. Should there be any attempt to remove the flag they will receive a traditional Black Country response or two from me.

"So any lummocks planning to remove the flag had better pin back their lugholes and listen – I don't want their donnies anywhere near it, so it is best that they don't show their fizzogs in my office."

The Black Country flag was at the centre of a row last year when equality campaigner Patrick Vernon branded it 'offensive' and 'insensitive'. He said the use of chains on the flag represented a disturbing image of an industry that profited from slavery and colonial rule in Africa. It led to Wolverhampton-born Mr Vernon, who now lives in London, facing accusations of hypocrisy because he was made a member of the Order of the British Empire.

UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge with the Black Country flag which is outside the window of his Brussels office

Etheridge aims to be new UKIP leader

WEST Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge has launched his bid to become Nigel Farage's successor as leader of UKIP.

The Sedgley councillor spoke of his hopes in bringing Britain together by being 'the party for everyone' and making the West Midlands proud.

Speaking at the launch at The Seven Stars pub in Sedgley, Mr Etheridge said he wanted a reduction in 'sin taxes' on alcohol and cigarettes, and to implement a firmer approach on crime.

He said: "I want us to represent the view of the people against the establishment. I want changes and I think people are unhappy with how lenient we are with crime, and by seeing lots of money go away in taxes and then questioning where it has gone. We need to get in there as outsiders and look at how the country is being run and question everything."

He continued: "I'm not going to be the next Nigel Farage but I do want to be the first Bill Etheridge. It is time to move on and get a different approach. I want us to be more considered and understand the will of the people as the party for everyone."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club temporarily shut after violence

A DUDLEY nightclub has been temporarily closed down after seven violent incidents in less than a month. West Midlands Police has secured the short-term closure of Rock Zombie.

The licence for the club on King Stree, was suspended until a hearing on August 2.

Police have been called to the venue 32 times this year and crimes recorded there recently include violence and criminal damage caused to a police vehicle. Police said there had been two incidents of the club doors being rushed by groups of men.

Panda in to zoo need for red duo

DUDLEY Zoo will be the new home of a baby red Panda that has arrived from the Netherland.

The one-year-old male, called Gawa, will soon join the attraction's current red Panda resident called Yasmin, 11, in the hillside enclosure after transferring from Rotterdam Zoo.

Section Leader, Jay Haywood, said: "Gawa is beautiful, he's currently offshow as he settles in and we're hoping to introduce him as a companion to Yasmin later this week.

"It will be great to see two pandas back in the enclosure."

Pensioner is badly injured in accident

AN ELDERLY woman was seriously injured after an accident involving a reversing car in Coseley. The woman, believed to be in her 80s, sustained multiple injuries.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "The woman was conscious and breathing but had sustained multiple serious injuries in the collision." The incident happened on Bourne Street at around 1.10pm on Friday. Anyone with information should call police on 101.

Hotel is sponsoring volunteer awards again

THE Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill has agreed to be main sponsor again this year for the Dudley Volunteers Awards.

The awards, organised by Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, recognises people who give up their time to help others in the borough.

Closing date for nominations this year is August 22 and nomination forms are available online at https://dva2016.wordpress.com/nominate/

Star Wars Lego-style

AN exhibition of Star Wars characters made from Lego is being staged in Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

The May the Force Be With You exhibition is in Gallery Nine and runs to September 10. Entry is free and the museum in St James's Road is open 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

BORIS is Foreign Secretary. Cripes.

SO farewell, David Cameron. I never expected to write that quite so soon. I met him on only a few occasions, all before the 2010 General Election. In his early months he was wary, suspicious and unsure of himself, like the young Tony Blair. But he gradually relaxed and grew into the job. Above all, he tended to get on with ordinary people, even when they disagreed with his politics. I cannot recall him ever looking bored or irritated. I liked him. And when Radio 4 announced yesterday that Cameron had left the government front bench "for the last time," I wondered how, after the chaos and upheaval of the past three weeks, anyone could be certain of that. Or of anything.

WE'VE had a letter from E.ON explaining that the adapter on the Chateau Rhodes smart meter is potentially dangerous and should be disconnected without delay. A replacement gizmo will be sent in September. So between now and then we will have no little blue light on the sideboard in the dining room. I do not know how we will cope. To be honest, I've never really understood the purpose of a smart meter from the consumer's point of view. If you wish to be constantly nagged about the need for economy, you could always marry a Yorkshireman. I subscribe to the conspiracy-theory view that, when the wind turbines fail and the electricity runs out, smart meters will inform the power companies which consumers to cut off first. That Rhodes bloke, he's not using much.

ANYONE else notice the resemblance between Mrs May's husband Philip and Calvin's dad in the cartoon strip Calvin & Hobbes?

NEWS reaches me of a much-valued teacher who, on changing jobs, was asked how she would like her presentation silver mug to be inscribed. "Don't forget my name is Rodgers, with a D," she stressed. Sure enough, the mug arrived, beautifully engraved to "Mrs Rodgers-Withadee."

MEANWHILE, a 68-year-old reader tells me he's fed up with the "lies, xenophobia and low-level racism" that conned the English into voting for Brexit. He declares: "If I was younger I would move to Scotland." And in Scotland, of course, you never get a word of bigotry or a whiff of sectarianism. Except on match days.

I STOPPED buying contact lenses from an online company some years ago but they don't give up. Their latest email sales pitch is headlined: "We can send your lenses across Europe." Sounds like a threat from the Mafia, doesn't it?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Property prices fall after Brexit vote

THE price of property coming to the market in England and Wales has fallen 0.9 per cent – £2,647 – according to Rightmove with the West Midlands seeing an even bigger fall of 1.6 per cent.

But the average house price at £205,951, which is up 2.9 per cent from the July 2015 average of £200,129.

Figures from Rightmove show that buyer demand in the two weeks since the EU referendum result is consistent with 2014 although down on 2015.

The same period last year benefitted substantially from a post-General Election boost.

Most agents report market momentum continuing due to shortage of suitable property for sale, buyers fearful of missing out on scarce choice and affordability and availability of low mortgage rates.

Miles Shipside, Rightmove director and housing market analyst, said: "As far as the price of property coming to market is concerned, the fall of 0.9 per cent is within the range that we have seen at this time of year since 2010.

"With the onset of the summer holiday season new sellers typically price more conservatively and the average drop in the month of July is 0.4 per cent over the last six years.

"Perhaps unsurprisingly this July's fall is marginally larger, as political turbulence has a track record of unsettling sentiment. Housing markets do not like uncertainty, with positive sentiment typically driven by confidence and momentum, supported by low borrowing costs."

Taxi drivers angry over policy on window tints

By Judith Hawkins

ANGRY taxi drivers stormed out of a Dudley Council meeting – accusing the authority of 'crippling the trade' in a row over tinted windows.

There were angry exchanges as members of the council's Taxis Committee voted to continue a controversial policy over the use of heavily tinted glass.

The policy sets out how dark the windows in taxis should be. It means the majority of drivers whose vehicles have tinted windows deemed too dark will be forced to either stop using these vehicles or replace the windows within three months.

Speaking on behalf of the drivers, including around 30 at the meeting last week, Shaz Saleem from Dudley Taxi Association told councillors: "You are crippling the trade with this policy, a policy that is out-of-date."

The council's long-standing policy states that private hire and Hackney carriage vehicles must have at least 75 per cent of light passing through the front windscreen, 70 per cent through both front side facing windows, and 40 per cent through all other side facing windows.

Cost

Mr Saleem said: "With your policy at the moment it will restrict us from buying hi-spec cars, which these days are coming with as standard manufactured tinted windows. It is not by choice, they are coming like that."

The policy was under review after tests conducted on behalf of the council mistakenly passed some cars with tinted windows last year, that have since failed this year. Those few vehicles will be the only ones with windows darker than the guidelines allowed to remain in operation.

However this could change when a decision is made on whether to also install CCTV in the taxis, said committee chairman Councillor Richard Body.

Teacher helps book a place in history

Retiring art teacher Jackie Lander looks at the sculpture with students Georgia Wood and Jakob Cassidy

AN art teacher has marked her retirement after 28 years at the same secondary school in Dudley by working with students to create a sculpture in the school grounds.

Jackie Lander, aged 57, is bidding farewell to Summerhill School in Kingswinford at the end of this tern, and wanted to leave her artistic mark before heading off to follow her hobbies, which include whale watching.

She asked each year nine student in the class to make their own ceramic 'book', with their names on the spine, and included one with her own name too as the 27 books were fused together to create the striking sculpture near the school's entrance.

Jackie said: "Everyone will see it coming into the school. At the top it is finished with an open book with the words 'Once Upon A Time', which I think leaves something to the imagination."

Cabbies are living in fear after latest attack

A TAXI driver was left with a broken nose in the latest assault on a cabbie in the Black Country.

It happened at around 4.30am on Sunday in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, and comes five months after another taxi driver, Mohammed Ahmed, was badly beaten in Brierley Hill.

Taxi drivers are now demanding greater protection.

Shaz Saleem, chairman of the Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, said Yassir Mahmood, from Stourbridge, was attacked after he confronted three men who were tampering with a taxi board on the roof of his car.

Mr Mahmood, who is in his 30s and has been a taxi driver for 10 years, was left with a broken nose and bruising.

Mr Saleem said the attack had left the cabbie 'shaken' and he criticised the police response, claiming no officers attended the scene.

Mr Saleem said: "It is a shocking incident. The police rang back and said they would come and see us in two days time. It is just not good enough. We are really not happy."

Mr Saleem said Dudley Council was looking at plans to install CCTV in taxis but more needs to be done.

Chief Inspector Simon Inglis, from Dudley Police, said: "I understand why taxi drivers in Dudley are worried but I would reassure them that this is being treated as an isolated incident and a thorough investigation will be carried out to try and find those responsible."

Shopping centre backing project

MERRY Hill owners Intu and The Conservation Volunteers (TVC) have launched the first Black Country 'Green Gym' at Saltwells Nature Reserve in Quarry Bank.

Green Gyms are a nationwide scheme run by TCV, encouraging people to improve their health and the environment while working on projects that benefit their community.

Intu Merry Hill jointly own a sloping woodland area of Saltwells, complete with woodland, streams and ponds. The Saltwells Green Gym project is funded by Intu and staff from Merry Hill will take part in regular supervised Employee Action Day conservation work at the site, along with the local community and TCV. Work will include clearing vegetation, litter picking and general improvements .

Annual meeting for NHS foundation trust

DUDLEY Group NHS Foundation Trust will hold its annual members meeting today (Thursday) from 4.30pm until 7.30pm at Russells Hall Hospital. To book a place call (01384) 321124 or email foundationmembers@dgh.nhs.uk

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Police make appeal for witnesses to M5 accident

POLICE have launched an appeal for witnesses after a motorcyclist suffered serious injuries after hitting the central reservation of the M5 motorway.

The 57-year-old from Wolverhampton continues to be treated in hospital and is described as in a serious but stable condition, following the crash last Thursday afternoon.

It happened between junction 2 for Oldbury and 3 for Halesowen at around 3.40pm.

Police say the rider was on a red and silver Kawasaki motorbike which hit the central reservation.

The road was closed for several hours and an air ambulance was called to take the rider to hospital.

Officers are appealing for anyone who saw the crash to contact them.

PC Stuart Thorpe, from the regional collision investigation unit, said: "This happened at a busy time of day on a busy stretch of the M5 and we are appealing to any passing motorists who saw what happened to get in touch.

"The motorway was closed for several hours while we dealt with the collision and all lanes were reopened at around 7pm."

"Specialist officers are supporting the family and the driver at this time and investigations continue to establish the circumstances that led to the crash."

Anyone with information is urged to call PC Thorpe or PC Claire Byrne on 101.

Chance to discuss mental wellbeing

DUDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust will be holding a series of drop-in information events.

They aim to give people the chance to find out more about improving their mental and overall wellbeing within a friendly, safe and comfortable environment.

No booking or appointment is necessary for the sessions which run from 1pm until 2.30pm today (Thursday) at Brierley Hill Library – then on August 25 at Halesowen Library; September 21 at Stourbridge Library; on October 18 at Dudley Library.

For more information contact community development worker Iram Maan on (01384) 366517 or email cdw@dwmh.nhs.uk

Dip into nature at a town park

YOUNG visitors to Dudley's Priory Park can discover what is living in the park's lily pond on Saturday, July 30, during a pond dipping session from 2pm until 3.30pm. Places need to be booked on (01384) 812474.

Race hate crimes increased after Brexit

RACIALLY-AGGRAVATED hate crimes reported to police in the Black Country went up three-fold in the days following the UK's decision to leave the EU.

In the three days following the historic vote, between June 17 and June 19, there were 10 incidents reported across the boroughs of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall. During the same period a week earlier, before the EU referendum, there were just three reports.

The figures were uncovered via a Freedom of Information request and come as increased tensions are reported across the country, including the Black Country.

Walsall Councillor Aftab Nawaz said: "My experience is that since the EU referendum there has been quite a high level of fear in the Eastern European communities. They feel a bit in limbo, while at the same time threatened.

"It upsets me to hear about the division in our area. Much of it is a consequence of the language used in Westminster up to the referendum. The campaigners do not realise the impact they are having."

Harassment

The crimes recorded in the days following the referendum include racially of religiously aggravated common assault, harassment and threats to damage property.

Across the entire West Midlands there was less of an increase in racially aggravated hate crimes, with a total of 29 reported in the three days after the vote compared to 24 in the same period a week earlier.

A spokesperson for West Midlands Police, said: "West Midlands Police is determined to support people who suffer as a result of hate incidents and encourage people to report them. We will not tolerate crimes of hate and prioritise local engagement with those communities who feel vulnerable.

"We did not see a significant rise in hate crime in the days immediately following the referendum result but the situation is being carefully monitored. We have had some incidents that are being investigated."

Dementia centre now set to close its doors

A DAY centre for dementia sufferers is to close because council bosses say not enough people use it.

The Roseville Gateway centre in Coseley supports around 50 people a week but will shut by September 30 following a review of dementia services in Dudley borough.

Council bosses say those who attend the Coseley centre will be transferred to others in the borough – the Brett Young Gateway in Halesowen and the Crystal Gateway in Stourbridge.

They said all three were 'running below expected capacity' and the closure would save £443,000.

Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "The council is committed to improving people's wellbeing, maintaining or promoting their independence and reducing the need for formal care support through our dementia gateway service.

"The success of dementia advisors, who provide early help to people when they receive their diagnosis to remain living in their local communities, has resulted in fewer people visiting the borough's three dementia gateways.

Transfer

"Following a review, the decision has been taken to close the Roseville Gateway by September 30. We have written to those who attend the service and we will be supporting them to transfer to Crystal and Brett Young gateways.

"People in Coseley with dementia will still be able to have an assessment of need at home. They will also be able to access the dementia advisor service, which can travel to people's homes to provide tailored support and advice."

Bosses say staff will have the opportunity to move to vacant positions in the borough, or express an interest in voluntary redundancy with compulsory redundancy a last resort.

Dudley Conservative leader Councillor Patrick Harley labelled the move a 'backward step'. He added: "A lot of people use these services, including my own mother, and it is a hell of a job getting them places to attend on a regular basis.

"More money than ever is being pumped into adult social care so I can't see why they are penny-pinching like this. It's short-sightedness, we should be giving more money to organisations like this."

Special delivery for food bank

Food bank manager Mike Crook receives the keys from Chris Lindop and Andrew Lindop of Amlin Motors

A FAMILY-run Black Country firm has donated a van to a food bank to help support vulnerable individuals and families in crisis.

Amlin Motors relocated from its previous home in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, to Maypole Fields, Cradley Heath

Managing director Andrew Lindop said the company was keen to give something back to community to mark the change of premises and thought of the Black Country Foodbank, which is based close to its former showroom.

"The community has been really good to us and we just felt like we needed to give something back," he said.

"The food bank was the closest charity to us when we were at Brettell Lane and another thing is it has also got Black Country in the name.

"All of us here are really proud of our roots. We have got the flag up here and when we go to motor racing events we have all got the Black Country T-shirts on.

"The foodbank needs vans, particularly a little one like the one we handed over, to get to the supermarkets. Admittedly it is not all selfless, we have got our name on the van, so there is a bit of advertising for us there."

Mr Lindop, aged 40, said the firm has invested £1.5 million in the new showroom.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Weekly rubbish collections stay

RUBBISH bins will still be collected once a week across the Dudley borough after proposals by the council's controlling Labour group to switch to fortnightly collections were defeated.

Labour had hoped to save £2.3 million by the movie but could not be sure of forcing through the proposals and was outvoted by Tory and UKIP members.

Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley accused leaders of 'mean service cuts' but Labour members have challenged the opposition to find savings they say need to be made.

Car parts supplier is creating 18 jobs

A CAR parts supplier has opened a new site in Halesowen, creating 18 jobs. Andrew Page has moved to the 17,000 sq ft site in Coombswood Way, which will act as the company's hub and help improve how it handles stock.

Chief executive Martin Saunders said: "The Midlands is a key region for us both in terms of its location from a logistics perspective, as well as the opportunities it brings in reaching additional customers. This site will also help us to expand our operations into Wales."

Building society's boost for charities

THREE Black Country charities are among a thousand in the UK to benefit from a building society's scheme.

YMCA Open Door, Parkinson's UK Dudley and District Branch and Cats Protection, Stourbridge, Dudley and Wyre Forest, have all been awarded a share from the Yorkshire Building Society scheme. Adam Keeley, manager of the society's Stourbridge branch, said "I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came into the branch to nominate a charity."

Canal trips get award from travel website

A Black Country tourist attraction is celebrating success after being awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for 2016. Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines was given the award for hospitality excellence.

Nick Morris, chief executive officer of Dudley Canal Trust Trips Ltd, said: "This award is a fantastic achievement for all our staff and volunteers. We've had a fantastic year so far in terms of visitor figures since the opening of our new visitor centre, The Portal."

Homes near hospital

TWENTY homes look set to be built on a site near Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

The homes are being proposed for land off Ketley Hill Road and would involve a new access road being built. The plans have been recommended for approval by councillors.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Home bit dowdy? Call in the bulldozers

SO from now on, Prime Minister's Questions will be dominated by squabbles between Jeremy and May, with Hammond sitting in the shadows.

With such a Top Gear bench, as somebody once said, what could possibly go wrong?

❒ ❒ ❒

SUPPOSE your house looked a bit the worse for the passage of time. I know that is unlikely, because you maintain your property diligently, keep the garden immaculate, and scrub your doorstep spotless every morning. But just play with me for a while on this one.

Say your property had been allowed to decay for a good few years, and needed quite a bit of modernisation. Nothing serious, it's still habitable, but now it's 50, maybe 60 years old, there are a fair few jobs that need doing; a new heating system here, a bit of rewiring there, the odd plumbing and damp-proofing job.

Anyway, an expert says you probably need to spend £30,000 on it. Or if you ask nicely, his mate Des, who works in the demolition trade, will knock the house down for a third of that.

Now how many of you would say "That's a good idea, it will save us 20 grand on repairs"? Not many I suspect, because then there would be the small matter of you not having a house at all.

Yet this is basically what Dudley Council is doing, after announcing plans to demolish four tower blocks in the Netherton.

The council says urgent maintenance work will cost £9 million, whereas it would cost just £3 million to flatten them and pay off the people who live in them.

People like 90-year-old Lilly Gough, who has lived in her flat for half a century, and is heartbroken at the prospect of leaving.

Of course, it is hardly the only local authority to adopt this policy. Over the past 20 years, tower-block flattening seems to have become something of a municipal sport. People even hold street parties to get into the mood.

A few years ago Wolverhampton Council pulled down the flats at Graiseley, and later complained of a shortage of one and two bedroom properties in the city.

But back to Netherton, where the council will save £6 million but lose 301 flats. That works out at £19,993 a property. I realise the council is strapped for cash, but it's a safe bet it will cost a lot more to build 200 new homes.

We are supposed to be living through a housing crisis. We're told we need to build 240,000 new homes a year just to stand still.

Which makes knocking down hundreds of homes because they need updating – and I suspect partly because they are unfashionable – seem very short-sighted indeed.

Sheila performing while in her 20s

Sheila, third left, in a tap routine during a senior school production

Sheila aged around seven or eight years old

Sheila's long career a real dancing feat

A celebrated Wolverhampton tutor tells reporter **JESSICA LABHART** what it takes to have a long career in dance

SINCE opening her first dance school, in Stafford Road, Wolverhampton at the age of 14, Sheila Groom has gone on to teach hundreds of boys and girls.

Many of her protegees have gone on to secure their own careers in the industry. But what really makes dance such a worthwhile career?

"Well, it began for me really when I was five years old. I had whooping cough, and the doctor at the time told my parents I should do some exercise to try and soothe it. So I started going to a very small dance school in Wolverhampton, just doing tap, because ballet was a bit too far out my parents' reach financially in those days."

Sheila, now aged 86, added: "When I was around six or seven, I moved schools to be taught by Jack Griffiths and Dorothy May. That was when I found out about Shirley Temple, and I would mimic her both in my dancing and the costumes that my mother would handmake for me.

Fees

"At one point, I'd progressed so much in tap that I took the same grade exam as my actual teacher, on the same day! That was when my parents decided it may be time for me to move on.

"Madame Leminski's was a ballet school based at Birmingham New Street when I started taking classes there at 12 years old, I think it's still going, but in Solihull now. I went there every day after school – which was Prestwood Road School in Heath Town, and do a paper round in the morning to pay for my dance fees. In my previous dance schools, I'd developed a bit of a name for myself but at Madame's, I was a nobody. Not only that, but some of the girls that went there had their own chauffeurs and fur coats. I'd come from Bank Street in Park Village – but my mother always made sure I looked just as good as the wealthy girls – it just took a lot of sewing and sequins. My time at Madame's really drove me to work as hard as I could so I could be just as good as the more privileged dancers. I used to save up all my money so I could go to the six week residential session at Maude Wells' school in Forest Gate, London.

Sheila today, aged 86. "Dance is something everyone can do," she says

"Ms Wells had said she had followed my career since I was an infant and she wanted me to go to her from the age of 12, but we couldn't afford it. So every summer I would go to her classes, to keep learning and developing. I kept going to London in the summer, and stayed at Madame's school until I was 22, whilst running my own school at the same time.

"Running the school was dead easy in those days, in comparison to how it is now. The majority of the girls were beginners, so you could teach them all the same material at the same time. Now, not only are so many girls and boys coming to me at different standards, but they come with their own expectation of what dancing is, and that doesn't always match what the rigorous training schedule has to be in order for them to pass the proper exams.

"Now, I often ask the students to bring in a piece of music they want to dance to, particularly for their freestyle exams, so I can chop it and change it and create steps that go with it. We didn't really have that kind of freedom in the old days.

"When I was 23, I got married and decided to have a family. Though I was asked to become an official examiner for the national dance board at that time, I declined it because I didn't want to neglect my two young sons or my husband, so I really focussed on my charity work, and got involved in the Newsvendors Benevolent Fund 'Old Ben' as well as the mayor's various charities throughout the years and later, the MS society.

Among Sheila's achievements are the British Empire Medal she was awarded two years ago. But she said: "For me, it's all about the children.

"I've always believed that, whether you make a career out of it or not, dance will set you in good stead for the rest of your life. Just being able to listen and interpret and enjoy music, being able to follow instruction, having the discipline and commitment to attend classes, and aiming to achieve the best you can are skills that everyone still needs, even today.

"Dance is something that everyone can do, but it takes a lot of hard work to do it well, and like anything in life, the amount of effort you put in is translated into the result you get at the end."

Result

Sheila is a life member of both the Royal Academy of Dance and the International Dance Teachers Association, an Associate Member of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and a Member of the Guild of Professional Teachers of Dance, Movement to Music and Dramatic Arts. She has a Certificate of Excellence from the Mayor of the City of Wolverhampton, a Bronze Award from the Multiple Sclerosis Society for charity work and the Samaritan Award from the Newsvendors Benevolent Fund.

But it has not been without its mishaps, as she explains: "When I was performing at the Grand in the pantomime in the 1940s, a group of lads I used to go ice-skating with decided to come and watch the show. Except, when they arrived, they stole one of the applause boxes from the side of the stage, so whenever I appeared on stage, there was this thunderous applause – which was highly embarrassing!

"On another occasion, I had this ballet costume which was threaded with fairy lights. Whilst I was dancing, the lights fused, and in the confusion I performed a grand jeté (a ballet leap) but in the wrong direction, so I ended up facing the back of the stage."

For more, visit: http://sheilagroomschoolofdance.co.uk/

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Young people sold out by the older voters

I want to thank the elderly for betraying our children. No wonder young people do not respect you, when you do something like this.

You have no idea what you have done. The stock market has wiped out your pension fund, so if you were considering retiring in the next couple of years forget it, and the pound is breaking records. It is the lowest since 1985. Interest rates will go up. This then could mean inflation will start to rise.

Here is some of the impact on yourselves. I have done some research on your freebies. All these freebies come from the European Social Economic Fund. Are you aware that we take out more than we put in, which means losing your bus passes. You will lose you cold weather payments, free prescriptions, free TV licence and other freebies. The council cannot afford to fund your freebies.

Another factor I can see – Cornwall voted to leave. Remember the Cod War? Well here comes number two. Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden will not like it if Cornish fishermen are caught fishing in their waters. They will send big nasty frigates to humiliate these fishermen and send them on their way.

When Scotland has its second referendum we will become even smaller. Instead of being a big dot on the world map we will be a little dot that no one will see. There is one bright light. UKIP has got what it wanted. This organisation will be no more.

For me and my family life in Tenerife is far better. At least my kids are accepted over there. The only time I will ever come back if Mount Teide blows her top, or hell freezes over.

G FLETCHER
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Welcome to the UK's 'real world'

THE only thing David Cameron gave this country was gay marriage, which the majority of the country were against.

The only reason we had a referendum was to counteract the threat he saw coming from UKIP, not because he wanted to ask the British people their views.

MPs live in a cocoon, away from the world they create. I suggest all MPs spend a month living in the 'little Polands' that they have created in parts of Yorkshire, where doctor's surgeries have to employ interpreters, at a cost of £40 an hour, to deal with this situation. Where houses are occupied by two immigrant families and councils are at breaking point.

The people that MPs hoped would be too dumb to vote have finally had enough. The only party to come out of this with any credibility is UKIP and Nigel Farage.

C LLOYD
Dudley

Brexit is no excuse for race hate crimes

ALONG with many others, I voted to leave the EU. My reasons for this were not racist in any way whatsoever and I have never believed that immigration into Britain or, emigration out of Britain, will in any way be affected by whether or not we are part of the European Union.

Personally, I have no problems or concerns with the current levels of migration. I was, therefore, extremely disappointed (though not necessarily surprised) to learn that there has been an increase in race/hate crimes since the result was announced. It was to be expected, after this increase in hate crimes, that both the chief constable and the police and crime commissioner would come up with their mealy-mouthed platitudes of 'we will monitor the situation closely'. The PCC has stated that hate crime figures for this region have remained steady at 'about 10 a day'. I sincerely hope that both of these men do far more than just monitor the situation and take some very positive action to bring any and all perpetrators to justice. Ten cases a day is about 70 cases a week too many.

It is now beholding on all politicians to work together to carry out the expressed wishes of the people.

C JONES
Brierley Hill

Tighten up control of our borders

THE referendum result looks like a protest vote against the political establishment with immigration being the key factor.

People have always had concerns about how their communities were changing almost overnight but they never were allowed a voice for fear of being branded 'racist'. Consequently many saw the referendum as an opportunity to get their own back and vote to leave the EU.

But will we ever stop the number of people who want to come to Britain? There is talk of an Australian points system when we finally leave the EU, but that won't mean a thing unless we put a seal on our porous borders. Reports suggest migrants are getting here in the backs of lorries, on boats, even somebody who walked through the Channel Tunnel, who remarkably has now been given permission to stay.

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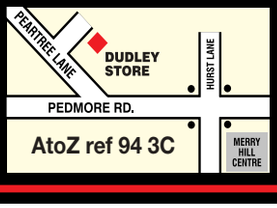

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Shop boss says sorry after boy is sold cider

BOSSES at a Dudley shop have been told to improve staff training after an underage boy was sold four cans of cider.

The 15-year-old was allowed to buy a four-pack of six per cent Scrumpy Jack from Bargain Booze in Dibdale Road, Dudley, in April.

A licensing hearing last week heard how the teenage test buyer was not asked for identification, despite his youth. Chiefs ruled staff will need more training after licensee Avninder Singh Grewal apologised.

The hearing was told that on April 29 a 15-year-old boy was sold the alcohol by a shop worker.

Speaking at the hearing, Mr Singh Grewal said the worker involved had been 'very apologetic and formally disciplined, and advised that if it every happened again it would be an instant dismissal'.

He said the shop worker was formally interviewed. "He said he was busy and he was caught off-guard and it was a mistake that anybody could make," added Mr Singh Grewal.

"We have stressed how important it is no matter how busy the shop is."

By David Cosgrove

An apologetic Mr Singh Grewal said the offence was a one-off and he had reiterated to staff the importance of challenging people who look younger than 25.

The premises was visited twice in 2014 for test sales of tobacco and alcohol but on both occasions staff refused to serve the youth.

Committee chairperson Councillor Elaine Taylor said: "You have admitted the sale was not acceptable, taken personal responsibility and apologised. The sale of four cans of six per cent cider to a 15-year-old is extremely serious."

Councillor Taylor said that the premises will be visited to ensure the training programme has been adhered to.

South Staffs MP is the new chief whip

Newly appointed Government chief whip Gavin Williamson leaves 10 Downing Street after his meeting with the PM

KINVER'S MP Gavin Williamson was appointed the Government's chief whip when new Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May embarked on a Cabinet reshuffle during her first full day in power.

The South Staffordshire MP, who has been an MP since 2010 and was previously David Cameron's Parliamentary private secretary, will take charge of party discipline. He described the role as 'not bad' as he left Downing Street after accepting his appointment from the Prime Minister. He will now take up residence at 12 Downing Street.

Role

Mr Williamson, who played a major role behind the scenes in Mrs May's rise to power as her campaign manager, replaced outgoing chief whip Mark Harper. His immediate task will be keeping control of MPs coming to terms with Mrs May's new-look Cabinet, a move considered vital considering the Tories' slender majority in the House of Commons.

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Church group's name used by scammers again

A CHURCH group that became the target of con artists pretending to collect money on their behalf has now been subject to another swindle.

St John's Church Preservation Group in Dudley was informed that a fraudster was ringing their suppliers in an attempt to gain a discount.

It comes after callers knocked on doors in the Kates Hill area and conned people out of around £300 in cash after claiming they were collecting for the group.

Deb Brownlee, chairman of the group, said the latest con was 'heartbreaking'.

Mrs Brownlee said she was told about the latest scam by someone who had taken a call for a booking from someone claiming to be a trustee of the charity.

She said: "Following hot on the heels of bogus collectors going door to door collecting in the name of our charity, we now find someone ringing one of our regular suppliers pretending to be one of our trustees for reasons we can only assume to be to obtain a discount.

Despairing

"We never saw this coming and are despairing at the fraud going on in our name. We can only urge people to please contact us direct if they have any approach from anyone saying they are connected with St John's Church Preservation Group. To have unscrupulous people trying to cash in is heartbreaking."

The con comes as a blow to the group, which is nearing the final stages of its restoration project to re-open the Grade II-listed church, that closed in 2002, for worship and community use.

The group hopes to finally secure the lease for the building in the coming weeks. They urge anyone approached for donations to get in touch with them on 0787 119 5042 or email savestjohnschurch@hotmail.co.uk. Anyone with information about the scammers should contact police on 101.

Jumbo fun at safari park

Baby elephant Sutton enjoys being sprayed with water as playful pachderms splash around in their own paddling pool at the park near Bewdley

ELEPHANTS at the West Midland Safari Park have been creating their own waterpark fun, which visitors can watch during the summer holiday period.

This year the Summer Nights event at the park near Kidderminster has been extended to cover the whole of the school summer holidays. This will start from July 23 and run through to September 4 with increased opening hours from 9am to 9pm.

This will be good news for the three playful African elephants who reside in Elephant Valley at the park. For 24-year-old Five, 23-year-old Latabe and two-year-old bundle of fun, Sutton, enjoy nothing more than playing with water, including an elephant-sized paddling pool just on their doorstep.

Head keeper Andy Plumb said: "Like any toddler, Sutton loves to play, especially when it involves Mum. They splash around, throw water onto themselves and use their trunks to suck and blow out the water, which always looks spectacular."

For details about the park see www.wmsp.co.uk

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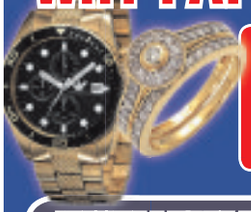

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Gotta catch 'em all in the Pokémon hotspots

MOBILE phone in hand, moving quickly from landmark to landmark and cheering spontaneously in the street.

Millions of people are joining the new phenomenon – Pokémon Go – which is sweeping through the country after its launch last week.

The aim of the game is to capture, battle, and train virtual Pokémon who appear throughout the real world via the player's device's GPS system and camera. It uses the location of the player's phone/device to pin-point where the nearest checkpoints (called PokéStops) and animated Pokémon characters are.

The player can then follow the game on their phone/device, whilst walking in the real world, to try and 'catch 'em all'.

Landmarks

Pokémon have so far appeared in a variety of locations across the region, though the game has only just been officially released in the UK.

Landmarks throughout the area have unwittingly found themselves included in the online game, which sees real world venues become the 'home' of virtual world animated Pokémon characters for players to collect. And apparently Wolverhampton is a hotspot. People are taking to the city streets in hope of catching a Charmander, Wiggylypuff or Pidgeotto.

Games Design student at the University of Wolverhampton, Russell Walls, aged 21, was playing the game in Queens Square. He said: "Pokémon Go is basically this app that came out and I think it's a great thing. It's getting everyone who have been stuck in their rooms out and about and meeting new people. Wolverhampton is probably one of the hotspots in the West Midlands. As a games design student I would say it is a wondrous thing."

Other hotspots across the region included in the game so far include Morrisons on Blaydon Road, Pendeford. Pokémon Go have confirmed that the chain are the only supermarkets in the UK that contain Pokémon.

Sedgley has become a hive of Pokémon Go activity too. The White Horse, The Grand Junction, The Courthouse, the local Scout hut, Sedgley Library are all Poké centres. Sedgley church gardens also has a registered Poké gym and is home to a range of grass type Pokémon for players to catch.

Dudley Zoo has shown that not only is it the perfect place to spot rare wildlife, it's also the perfect place for Pokémon too.

The zoo has been registered as a gym where trainers can battle it out, with various Pokémon being spotted on paths and even in enclosures joining the real world animals.

Pokémon found at Dudley Zoo, where there will be reduced priced admission on Pokémon Fridays during August for monster hunters

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Builders have got Connor's fundraising all wrapped up

KIND-HEARTED builders at a Dudley housing development bandaged themselves up for a day to raise money in aid of a co-worker's baby boy.

Connor Davies, the 15-month-old son of forklift truck driver Steve Davies, was born with a heart condition and has had several operations at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Staff at the David Wilson Homes' Baggeridge Village development decided to get involved and raise more than £2,500 for the hospital.

Mr Davies and his colleagues took part in its Big Bandage event whilst at work on July 8, wrapping themselves – and even Steve's forklift – in bandages.

Mr Davies, aged 49, of Wolverhampton, said: "I'm overwhelmed by the support from my colleagues and my family.

"I would like to thank them, particularly site manager Wayne Berry, and everyone else who's contributed their time and money to the charity."

More than 200 bandages were donated by local medical supply companies and they were used to create a huge bandage to wrap round Steve's forklift for the day.

Mr Berry, site manager for David Wilson Homes Mercia, said: "When we heard what Steve was doing for little Connor, we were all very moved, and decided to help out.

"It's been a fun way to raise money for a good cause, and we've all had a good laugh onsite getting mummified."

Anyone wanting to donate money to support the hospital's charity can do so by visiting www.bch.org.uk website.

Forklift driver Steve Davies, with his son Connor and daughter Jessica, receives £2,500 from work colleagues

NHS boss on the run to help patients

AN NHS boss will run past all of the big Black Country hospitals to raise funds to help patients.

Terry Whalley, the Black Country Alliance's (BCA) programme director, will run 21 miles to raise money for dementia care at the three trusts that form the Black Country Alliance in Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and West Birmingham. He will run from Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley to Sandwell General in West Bromwich before making his way to Walsall Manor Hospital. He will then keep on running to City Hospital in Birmingham via the site of the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Smethwick. Mr Whalley will complete the challenge on August 13.

He said: "I have never run this far before but I am training hard and I'm determined to run the full distance, if slightly nervous.

"As well as raising money through sponsorship towards dementia care I also want to raise awareness of the Black Country Alliance."

For more information call Terry on 0121 507 5915, 07773 624205 or email terry.whalley@nhs.net.

Secondary schools' standards 'too low'

STANDARDS of secondary school education in the Black Country are 'unacceptably low' according to the regional head of school inspectors Ofsted.

Lorna Fitzjohn, head of Ofsted in the West Midlands, has written an open letter to four councils in the region as well as academy trusts and MPs.

Ms Fitzjohn said that the achievements of pupils by the time they reached the age of 16 were 'poor' in comparison to other regions in the UK.

By Jessica Labhart

Ms Fitzjohn also said there is a 'wide' gap between GCSE achievements of disadvantaged pupils and their better-off counterparts.

She said secondary schools were regularly failing to build on the success of pupils in primary schools with 'much of their progress going to waste'.

The watchdog said that 76 schools in the Black Country, 53 (or 70 per cent), were academies and the rest local authority-maintained. However, Ms Fitzjohn said the concerns were 'prevalent in both types of schools'.

Worst

She said: "Of 151 local authorities, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton are among the worst 25 in England for GCSE attainment.

"Dudley fares little better and is among the worst 35 local authorities in the country for secondary school attainment."

Councillor Ian Cooper, of Dudley's children's services, said: "We are already focussing on areas in need of improvement and have discussed our priorities for getting standards in the secondary sector back on track with both Ofsted and the Department for Education.

"We have also brought in a new schools leadership team to the authority who have been working very closely in partnership with our schools in the School Improvement Alliance."

Ms Fitzjohn has now called for urgent action to take place to address the problems.

Julien Kramer, Wolverhampton's director of education, said: "We accept that still more needs to be done to improve standards still further and we are rising to the challenge.

Councillor Rose Burley, from Walsall's education services said: "We are confident that our existing schools improvement programme will deliver sustainable improvements."

Councillor Simon Hackett, of Sandwell's children's services, said: "We are working very closely with all our secondary schools."

Ready, steady, bake for hospice fundraiser

KEEN bakers are invited to whip up their most show-stopping creations for a lively afternoon of sweet treats and sunshine at the 'Great Sanderson Court Bake Off'.

The baking competition is being held at McCarthy and Stone's Sanderson Court development in Hagley on Saturday in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice.

All entries will be sampled and adjudicated by a panel of judges including Chairman of Bromsgrove Council, Councillor Helen Jones; General Manager at the Lyttleton Arms, Chris Cunningham; and Laura Millard from the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Guests are welcome to attend between noon and 4pm, with judging to take place at 1pm.

Bakers will be charged £2 for entry and can also try their luck in the raffle, which will include prizes such as a meal for two at the Lyttelton Arms, with all proceeds donated to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

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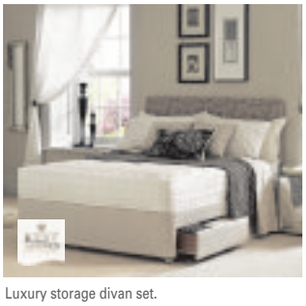

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Moggy rescued at block of flats

FIREFIGHTERS were needed to rescue a cat in Brierley Hill after it got stuck on top of a two-storey building.

The hapless moggy lost its nerve after it had got out of a window of a block of flats on Foxdale Drive on Friday evening but was unable to get back in or make its own way down to the ground either.

Two crews from Brierley Station attended around 7pm.

Ladders

At first the incident response vehicle was dispatched but it turned out the ladders fitted to it were not long enough prompting a call out for the main engine.

Two firefighters ascended the building and rescued the cat unharmed.

They were about to leave it in the trusty hands of a neighbour but the animal's owner, who had been out at the time, arrived back before the crews left the scene.

RSPCA brace themselves for increase in abandoned pets

NEARLY 750 animals were abandoned in the West Midlands last year, figures from the RSPCA reveal.

This includes 511 abandoned in the Black Country and Birmingham areas and 136 in Staffordshire. The other 98 animals were abandoned in Warwickshire, including Coventry.

The country's leading animal charity has released the figures as it enters its tricky summer months when, on average, one animal is dumped every hour somewhere in the UK.

In 2015, 2,751 animals were rescued by the animal welfare charity, which saw a peak in admissions in July.

Now, the RSPCA is bracing itself for another large summertime influx of abandoned animal. It is thought that one contributing factor is down to some owners heading off on holiday and not finding anyone to look after their pet while away.

Simon Osborne, a superintendent at the RSPCA, said: "People often think that Christmas is the time we see the most abandoned animals but it is actually the summer.

Heartbreaking

"Every day our inspectors face cases where animals have been left abandoned in fields, dumped in boxes, left for dead at the side of roads and even left outside our animal centres and hospitals. It is just heartbreaking.

"We will never know why these animals are just discarded like rubbish. It could be for any number of reasons. Whether it is the fact that the novelty of their Christmas present pet has worn off, they don't want the responsibility of finding someone to look after their pet while away on holiday or whether more pets are found dumped because of the longer daylight hours, we will never know. It could be any number of reasons.

"All we know is that there is a real peak in the number of abandonments in the summer months and it is animal welfare charities like us at the RSPCA that are left to pick up the pieces. There is a huge strain on our resources at this time of year because of this. Many abandoned animals that are rescued are very badly neglected and poorly so need urgent vet care."

Not plain trains but automobiles

FOUR-WHEELED transport is set to steal the show at the Severn Valley Railway, as the attraction's popular Classic Vehicle Day returns on Sunday.

Sharing the limelight on this occasion, the railway's heritage locomotives will be taking passengers along the 16-mile span to enjoy the array of classic vehicles of all shapes and sizes, on display at stations along the line.

More than 140 classics will be showcased during the day, with more than 100 being pre-1970 and nearly 40 of those dating from before 1950. The oldest cars on display are expected to be a 1927 Austin and a rare 1926 Cluley at Kidderminster; a 1929 Austin 12 Burnham and a 1924 Rolls-Royce at Arley; a 1927 Rolls-Royce Coupe at Highley and a1928 Austin at Bridgnorth. For more information call 01562 757900.

Spotlight on an historic firm

The Black Country Living Museum's picture of an engineer at glass firm Chance Brothers

THE Black Country Living Museum has shone a light on a photographic addition to their permanent collection – and historic snap of an engineer at Chance Brothers in Smethwick working on an optical component for a lighthouse.

With the glass light towering over him, the unnamed worker poses for the camera. The picture was gifted to the Tipton Road museum by Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery last month.

Founded in 1824 when Robert Lucas Chance bought the British Crown Glass Company's works in Spon Lane, the glassmakers became Chance Brothers when vital investment from his sibling William ensured survival of the business

It then became a leading glass manufacturer, and indeed a pioneer in British glassmaking technology with Chance glass components found in lighthouses across the globe.

To find out more about the museum, including latest events visit www.bclm.co.uk

Cricket stars ready to hit fans for six

STARS of Worcestershire County Cricket Club's championship winning sides of the 1960s and 1980s are joining forces for a unique evening of cricket memories in aid of county captain Daryl Mitchell's benefit, which is taking place throughout the year.

'The Time of Their Lives' event on July 29 will see Norman Gifford, Roy Booth, Duncan Fearnley, Steve Rhodes and Phil Neale regale the audience with tales from a golden era – including stories behind the successes and dressing room anecdotes.

The entertainment gets under way at the county's iconic New Road ground in Worcester at 8pm. Broadcaster Dave Bradley will undertake the legendary Eamonn Andrews 'This is Your Life' role.

Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the night. They can be arranged by calling Mark Ashbourne on 07506 747619 or by emailing mitchbenefit2016@gmail.com

Drone on at the NEC

ALL things unmanned and aerial are coming to the NEC this winter with the return of the UK Drone Show.

Europe's largest gathering of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and drone pilots, enthusiasts and professionals will get a look at the latest in consumer drone technology and FPV – first person view – racing at the event on December 3 and 4.

Last year the show welcomed 6,500 visitors but more than 8,000 are anticipated this year.

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Lloyds cuts mean bank set to close

THE Lloyds bank branch in Netherton is closing down later this year.

The branch in Halesowen Road is to shut in October as part of a series of closures being brought in by the banking group

It has made the decision to close the Netherton branch because it already has another branch just over a mile away in High Street, Dudley, which it believes will be adequate to serve the local area.

Customers

The Netherton branch was identified for closure rather than the Dudley bank because if has fewer customers.

Lloyds say the closure will not result in any compulsory job losses.

Green light for engineer centre

A FORMER industrial building in Netherton will be converted into an engineering training centre, after plans by Birmingham-based Lema Academy were given the green light.

Proposals for the structure on the Hillcrest Business Park in Cinder Bank have been give the go ahead by Dudley Council.

The centre will provide engineering apprenticeships for young people aged between 16 and 23.

FOCUS ON NETHERTON AREA

Tenants worried as council plan demolition of homes

ANGRY residents have hit out at cash-strapped Dudley Council's plans to knock down four high-rise flats in Netherton in a bid to save money.

Hundreds of people could be forced to move if the plans go ahead, which was being decided at Dudley Council's Cabinet meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Tenants aired their concerns at a public consultation with council officers held at Netherton Arts Centre on Thursday evening.

Council officers revealed the flats – Arley Court, Compton Court, Manor Court and Wells Court – could be knocked down.

The council says it will cost more than £9 million to keep the buildings in their current condition over the next few years but it would cost £3m to demolish the buildings and compensate tenants and leaseholders.

Repairs

Residents hit out at the meeting saying Dudley Council has failed to carry out repairs following complaints over maintenance concerns such as water leaks.

Among the people opposed to the plans are couple Thomas William Gough, aged 88, and Lilly Gough, 90, who live in Wells Court for nearly half a century.

By Jamie Brassington

Thomas said: "We have lived here for 49 years, from when the flats were first built. We don't want to move." Lilly added: "We love it here."

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the opposition Conservative group, said he would welcome developers or landlords to take the flats off the council and bring them up to standard.

He said: "I think we should be more active in finding a developer who would look to take them off our hands and bring them up to a good standard."

Dudley Council will speak to residents one to one if demolition is approved.

Worried residents of the Netherton high-rise flats earmarked for demolition in a bid to save maintenance costs

Bop to top with The Young Ones

YOUNG men aged between 10 and 20 are needed to join The Young Ones, a Dudley-based theatre group who perform at Netherton Arts Centre.

The group are looking forward to getting started on rehearsals for their next production, High School Musical, which they will perform in February next year but the lack of young men is causing a problem.

Lots of young guys are needed for the big basketball number.

So aspiring Zac Efrons can get their head in the game and find out how to audition by contacting Chris Sykes on (01384) 895266 or Kaz Washbrook at kazziebubbles@aol.com – and Bop to the Top with The Young Ones.

Bumble about on a boat trip

A GROUP of conservationists have organised a boat trip taking place on Sunday.

The Bumble Hole Conservation Group is behind the trip which will take visitors to Hawne Basin, Halesowen.

The trip will begin at 10.30am and include cream tea and refreshments, before ending around 3pm. Anyone interested can book a seat by going to the group's visitor centre at Windmill End, Netherton.

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Figures flying high for airport

PASSENGER numbers hit a new monthly high of 1.1 million at Birmingham Airport last month.

June was the West Midlands main airport's 16th consecutive month of record-breaking growth.

In total 1,118,452 people were recorded travelling through the airport last month, up by 13.1 per cent on the same month last year.

This equates to 129,000 more passengers travelling through the airport in June and brings the 2016 running total for passengers using the airport to more than 5.2 million.

Meanwhile, up to 300 jobs are on their way to Birmingham Airport after budget airline and holidays group Jet2 unveiled a major investment in a new base there.

Black Country encouraged to get share of £13bn contracts

BUSINESSES across the Black Country are being given a helping hand to bid for £13 billion worth of contracts to build High Speed 2, the fast new rail link for London, Birmingham and northern England.

Report by Rob Golledge

The Black Country Growth Hub – a partnership of public and private sector business leaders – is launching a support programme focussing on supplying parts or services for the £55.7 billion scheme.

Hub member Wayne Langford believes businesses in the region are perfectly positioned to take advantage of HS2's arrival. He said: "There will be thousands of opportunities within the HS2 supply chain across many business sectors, requiring a range of capabilities, suitable for suppliers of all sizes and generated over a number of years.

"Along with colleagues, we've developed a programme of support to help businesses understand the procurement process and prepare themselves to be ready for when opportunities materialise. That could range from understanding if their business has the capacity and capability to deliver, or whether they need to have particular accreditation.

"The West Midlands has long been home to some of the UK's most advanced engineering and manufacturing firms, so businesses here really stand benefit most from an infrastructure project on the scale of HS2."

Peter Davies, from Brockhouse, West Bromwich, which supplies rail components to the rail industry, said: "HS2 is a game-changer for companies in the Black Country,"

Author reveals key to success

A STOURBRIDGE-born businesswoman now living in America has launched a book on how to find success in business.

Val Wright, aged 41, has enjoyed a successful career working for companies such as Microsoft and Starbucks after starting on a Young Enterprise Scheme.

Her book is entitled Thoughtfully Ruthless: The Key to Exponential Growth.

She said: "Thoughtfully Ruthless lays out the secret to rapid business growth by showing you how to unbelievably invent more time, catapult your energy, and boost the productivity of your resources. Thoughtfully Ruthless reveals how to create explosive growth."

Val works as a leadership and innovation expert in Los Angeles.

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Wolves fans get value on prized possessions

WOLVES fans were united at a special event to value their prized club memorabilia.

Dozens of fans flocked to Molineux to get a price on their possessions at a valuation day. Expert David Harper, a regular on the BBC's Bargain Hunt, looked over the items.

He said: "I suppose I'm better known for evaluating general antiques, but I'm in Wolverhampton to talk about football and I've met the the most passionate people here who really love Wolves – I just couldn't believe it."

"My job is to give the stories, explain where these objects are from and put the valuation on them – and that's been dead easy here because they've been teaching me all the history and all the tales. We've found some cracking objects."

Kevin Poole with his collection

William Andrews, Bully, David Harper

Steve Plant, of Stourbridge, shows expert David Harper a shirt from 1910

Shame

Kevin Poole, aged 49, from Upper Gornal, took along his collection of programmes dating back to the 1940s.

He said: "I was left these by my uncle who I think must have attended all of these games. It's such a shame to leave them in the attic when they mean so much to the fans and the club.

"That's why I've brought them down. Altogether, the professional valuator said they could fetch up to £600.

"I even have one of the programmes dating from shortly after the end of the First World War. That's probably my most prized piece in the collection."

The event was also attended by some famous faces, including club legend, record goalscorer Steve Bull.

He said: "I think it's important for children, fans and people of Wolverhampton to find out more about how the club started. I'm still learning and I'm in my 50s." John Brewer, 65, of Pendeford, had his scrapbook, full of signed photos of the players from 1949, and series of collectible programmes valued. He said: "It doesn't really matter how much they're worth, I'd never sell them – they're too special."

The event, also attended by National Football Collection consultant William Andrews, formed part of the city's Enjoy Wolverhampton 10-day programme of events and activities aimed at encouraging people to get involved in all the city has to offer.

Heather Ernstons, partnership manager for Wolverhampton council, said: "Wolverhampton Wanderers are a hugely significant part of this city, and hugely significant to the people who live here in Wolverhampton and indeed the West Midlands area."

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Sedgley are guild quiz champions

West Mids Federation

THE West Midlands Federation celebrated the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth with an afternoon tea party for their Guild members at Wollaston Village Hall.

The entertainment was provided by 'The Black Country Nightingale' vocalist Beryl Briscoe who gave a performance of her favourite songs from popular shows before tea was served. The choice of songs was excellent and enjoyed by everyone.

Tea was then served with a wide variety of sandwiches, cakes and individual trifles which were all served by the Federation Committee and their helpers.

The afternoon was completed with another performance by Beryl who sang many popular songs from the war years with everyone joining in.

The vote of thanks was given by Betty Davies. Chairman Margaret Tew thanked everyone for coming and hoped that they had enjoyed the afternoon. A vote of thanks was given to the committee for all their hard work and voted the afternoon a huge success.

The annual Inter-guild quiz was held at Stourbridge Football and Social Club. Twelve teams consisting of four guild members per team took part.

Sedgley E Guild were first with 95 points with Bewdley second with 81, followed by Wordsley M on 80. The shield was presented to Sedgley by Mrs Tew. Prizes were awarded to first and second team members.

Black Country wit and poetry enjoyed

Speakers's secretary Pauline Handley, speaker David Bartley and Josey Hunt

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed 33 members to The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley to enjoy their excellent three-course lunch and welcome back David Bartley with his Black Country poems and humour.

He had everyone laughing from beginning to end, with lots of audience participation, choosing one lady in particular by the name of Dinky White to help with his stories. He was asked to come back yet again at an early opportunity.

Unfortunately the normal coffee morning at the home of Ann & Mike Rogers on the second Friday in August has had to be cancelled due to roadworks and driveway closures at their home. This was rescheduled for Wednesday November 23. The next luncheon will be on Friday, September 16 one week later than normal – and the speaker will be Nikki Southall on Clarins skincare. By special request Mark Newbold is returning to talk about The Falklands Re-visited on October 14.

Visitors are most welcome and can attend three times before deciding to join.

For further information call the secretary on 01902 372984 or contact the chairman at maryjones30@sky.com

Insight into vintage jewellery

Wollaston E TWG

THE June meeting was opened with a welcome by chairman Julie Willetts. This was followed by Secretary Sue Ward, who read thank you letters from Margaret Tew and Oldswinford Guild, for their invitations to the open evening.

It was agreed by all who attended that the annual dinner had been a great success, and thanks went to organiser Sue Ward.

Regarding the bowls section, the club has almost completed the first round of competition, and it was nice that a few members represented the club, together with the Sons of Rest, at a Mary Stevens Park fun day. The speaker cancelled, but was replaced by two ladies from Granddad's Attic who gave an insight into vintage jewellery, etc, under the title of An Evening of Nostalgia.

The competition was won by Julie Willetts and Elizabeth Grove and the raffle by Valerie Harper and Marion Clarke.

Zoo offers youngsters a real wild time

Dudley Zoo is bringing back its really wild summer schools by popular demand, between August 6 and 26

ANIMAL-MAD youngsters are being given the chance to enrol for a summer school with a difference.

Dudley Zoo is running a packed programme of 'really wild summer schools' due to popular demand.

Children aged eight to 11 can sign up to Go Wild! Week while Zooversity is on offer for 12 to 15 year-olds.

Go Wild! Week will run from August 6 to August 12 and from August 15 to August 19, while Zooversity will take place from August 22 to 26.

Dudley Zoo conservation officer Chris Leeson, said: "We're really excited to be bringing back the Summer Schools again this year. We've got lots of activities planned for the school sessions."

These include critter hunts, animal feeding and abode building, pond dipping, bug hunts, horrible history and an I'm A Celebrity session for the older group.

Experience

"It promises to be a great experience for animal-mad youngsters, so sign up soon, as places are limited," he said.

Places at the summer schools cost £130 per child for the five-day week. Call (01384) 215313.

The zoo is also offering anyone who ever wondered what happens after the site closes a twilight trail, so visitors can see what happens as keepers settle the animals down for the night. The event tomorrow night (Friday), will include a behind-the-scenes guided tour.

Visitors will be able to hear about the zoo's vital conservation work as they shadow keepers during their lock-up duties, preparing supper for the animals and getting them ready for night. The tour lasts approximately two hours, starting at 5.45 pm, and ends with a barbecue in the castle courtyard. Places need to be booked.

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Hundreds of entrants lined up for Harry's Potter Charity Walk 2016 to raise funds for Harry

Hundreds Potter along to step up Harry fund

MORE than 250 people walked, ran and cycled between two hospitals in support of an annual fundraiser to help a young boy with cerebral palsy.

The event, Harry's Potter, was in aid of four-year-old Harry Morgan-Shirley from Codsall.

People were able to choose to take part in an 18-mile walk, an 18-mile run or a 35-mile cycle ride between the Princess Royal Hotel in Telford to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Nick Holding, organiser, said he was 'thrilled' with how well the event went. "There was a great atmosphere and everyone was very enthusiastic," he said. "This is the fifth year we have been doing the fundraiser now and we are already making plans on how we can make it bigger and better next year."

The charity trek has so far raised more than £65,000 over four years.

Nick added: "This year we had four runners taking part – one of them finished the route in less than two hours which was impressive. We also had about 70 cyclists and some were very good. However it was not a competitive event and most took it easy.

"As well as raising money for Harry, there are 14 other charities being supported by people taking part in the walk."

Harry's mother works at the PRH and the money will go towards him receiving life-changing surgery to help him to walk.

To donate to Harry's fund, go to www.justgiving.com/harrywillwalk

Brave – Harry Morgan-Shirley

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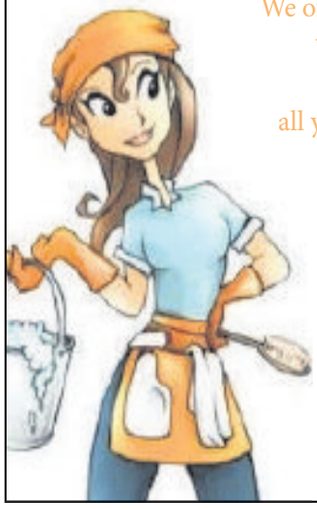

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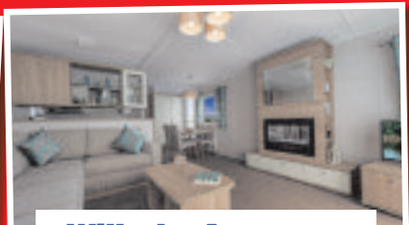

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, July 21, 2016

Still sitting pretty with vintage lace at auction

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway, of Perry & Phillips

A NUMBER of years ago, when everyone aspired to have a Laura Ashley-style home, lace was massively popular and was snapped up very quickly both at auction and in antiques centres.

Since then its appeal waned as design trends changed.

Now, however, we're seeing its fortunes wheel around as once again lace items seem to be appealing to the buyers.

And remember that lace doesn't have to be restricted to period homes or country cottages, it can look really good in a contemporary property.

There are all kinds of lovely lace-trimmed items to look out for that will look great in rooms throughout the home.

For a dining room or dining kitchen there are cotton and lace runners, table cloths, table centres and napkins.

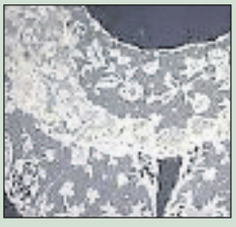
In the sitting room you could use cushion covers and small mats, and in a bedroom lace-trimmed valences, nightdress cases and lace-edged pillow slips.

Other small items such as lace gloves and handkerchiefs are pretty to display in a guest room, and it is possible to pick up odd pieces of vintage lace that you can then attach to your own fabric.

And it's not just for our homes that we like lace – for centuries it's been an essential fashion accessory.

Many people look out for pieces of old lace to use in dress-making, to add a vintage touch to a contemporary item.

Vintage lace wedding dresses sell for very good prices – providing they are in pristine condition (brides tend to want perfection on their wedding day).



A 1920s 'tea-stained' lace wedding dress sold recently on the internet for £230 and a beautiful Edwardian lace wedding dress went for £1,250.

Lace has been around for a long time – paintings show that it was used on clothing as early as the 1600s and we see portraits of Queen Elizabeth I wearing some spectacular ruffs and Marie Antoinette sporting elegant lace-trimmed dresses. Originally, lace was made from silk, linen, silver and even gold thread but gradually it became more affordable as cotton was used instead.

Hundreds of years ago lace-making was a cottage industry but in the 1800s lace-making machines were introduced, making lace much more affordable and generally available.

The 'original' lace was usually made using bobbins or needle and thread and today many 'hobby' lace-makers employ the same techniques.

Telling the difference between hand-made and machine lace can be very difficult, even for a collector.

The experts say you need a magnifying glass to identify 'clear lines' amongst the threads, this will indicate a hand-made item.

And of course, vintage lace is often sewn onto a modern piece of fabric so you get a 'marriage' of old and new.

Check the condition of very old lace before you buy it, it may have been beautifully made originally but subject to wear and tear over the years.

Perry and Phillips Auctioneers hold sales of antiques and collectables on the first Tuesday of each month. Valuation days, for sale items only, are held every Wednesday at the Mill Street saleroom, in Low Town, Bridgnorth from 10am until 4pm.

Phew! Prom season delivers many demands

The dress has to be just perfect

IT was prom week in most of our schools last week.

A time when the school year comes to an end and the stress is no longer caused by exams but instead what to wear for the occasion of the year.

It draws to a close a crazy time of year for me where I am extremely busy with alterations and making bespoke prom dresses.

'THE dress', designed from a mix of various photos on the internet, required in a particular colour and fabric with added bling….no thought for the final cost.

Dresses purchased from websites with super model photos, the reality arriving in the wrong size, different colour, and needing various alterations.

Dresses purchased from shops requiring a sleeker shape, a tighter bodice, the length shortened, the list is endless, my order book full and for the parents extremely costly.

The prom can be traced back to banquets arranged in American universities in the 19th Century held for the year's graduating class.

The word prom is short for promenade, the promenading of guests at a party.

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis

In the 1950's the traditional prom usually held in the school sports hall was replaced by a dance at local hotels and venues. During the 2000's US TV's shows made proms popular here and they become more important and more elaborate each year.

Accessories

For parents with daughters at prom age it is an expensive time and the planning amounts to weeks of detailed organising.

The dress, the hair and make-up (including a trial run), spray tan, the shoes, bag, jewellery, transport and then surprisingly, the after party dress and accessories, and the parents with sons do not escape lightly, the suit, shirt, tie and shoes have to be 'just right' and designer label.

Retailers selling garments for the prom season have to be savvy and well organised, the same dress must not be sold to more than one person attending the same event.

How often I wonder is the same dress purchased by two girls from different retailers, only to have their evening completely spoilt when they meet on the night!

I have even heard of girls not attending because the right dress just cannot be found.

Each year a trend features strongly, 2015 saw lots of red jersey dresses with beaded waists and plunging necklines.

This year navy is the outright winner, higher necklines are popular with open backs, sprinkled with diamante, straighter styles with a small train at the back or alternatively pale summery colours with full floating hemlines and tight gathered glittering bodices worn with towering high heels.

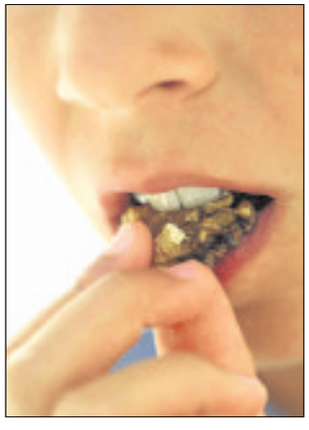
Next year will bring another new style, a new list of challenges and many an empty wallet.

For more details visit www.jflexclusive.com, www.jflgarmentsolutions.co.uk

Follow: jfllifeandloves on tumblr

If you keep an eye on portion sizes and avoid unhealthy additions like salt and sugar, nuts can be a healthy choice between or with your meals

Nutty discovery which can boost your health



A handful of nuts will curb your hunger

IT can be hard to get through the day without a snack or two, and all too often these come in the unhealthy form of biscuits, cakes or crisps. Want to curb between-meal hunger pangs and bolster your health in the process? Lisa Salmon makes a nutty discovery...

Report by Karen Evans

A handful of nuts could curb those snack-cravings – and boost your health at the same time. Not only will their concentrated protein content help you feel fuller for longer, but they could protect you from a whole host of illnesses.

A new study has found that patients with prostate cancer who consumed nuts five or more times a week after diagnosis, had a 34% lower rate of mortality than those who ate nuts less than once a month.

And last year, a Dutch study found a link between daily nut consumption and a reduced chance of dying from several chronic diseases, including cancer and heart disease.

SUPER NUTS?

Nuts are packed with protein, fibre and important vitamins and minerals, including – in differing proportions depending on the type of nut – calcium, iron, zinc, magnesium, vitamin E and B vitamins and selenium, the powerful antioxidant thought to help fight cancer, and which may also play a role in combating infertility, dementia and low thyroid function.

Nuts have a high fat content, but it's the 'healthy' type – unsaturated – which is thought to help lower 'bad' LDL cholesterol levels.

Of course, a packet of roasted, salted nuts is not the same 'healthy snack' as some plain, raw almonds, for example. Dieticians advise avoiding nuts that are packaged, salted or roasted in oil or honey; instead, eat them raw or dry-roasted.

FIGHTING CANCER

Although the recent Harvard study found death rates among men with prostate cancer were more than a third less when they ate nuts regularly, it didn't conclude that eating nuts actually helped prevent men from getting prostate cancer in the first place.

However, other studies have suggested nuts – particularly walnuts – may help prevent, or at least delay, some types of cancer, including breast, prostate and colorectal.

HEARTY STUFF

Many studies have identified a link between eating nuts and reduced risk of cardiovascular problems. Harvard research found men who ate nuts at least twice a week over a year had a 47% lower risk of sudden cardiac death and a 30% lower risk of dying from all types of coronary artery disease.

It's also thought that nuts lower insulin resistance, so they help reduce the incidence of diabetes and inflammation.

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, July 21, 2016

Co-author of the book paediatric dietitian Bridget Surtees

Chef Jonno Proudfoot is behind the new book Super Food For Superchildren

Experts set new super food rules for children

By Lisa Salmon

JUST when you'd managed to get the kids eating their five-a-day fruit and veg, and cutting down on saturated fat, a new book is claiming that's not quite the right way to go.

A trio of experts insist that while vegetables are indeed good for kids, fruit should only be eaten in moderation because of its high sugar content, but they can eat as much cream, butter and cheese as they like.

Chef Jonno Proudfoot, who wrote the book Super Food For Superchildren with sport and exercise scientist Professor Tim Noakes and paediatric dietitian Bridget Surtees, says: "If the authorities suggest five fruits and five vegetables are the same thing, I think they've made the rules too simple.

"Five fruits is certainly better than five cokes, but five vegetable portions will be infinitely better. I think five-a-day could live harmoniously within this realm of eating, provided it was five veggies and an occasional fruit."

And as for the long-demonised saturated fat, the authors insist early studies suggesting 'saturated fat is bad' were "flawed and contradictory", pointing out that the argument saturated fat raises blood cholesterol concentrations which directly cause heart disease is "at best a gross oversimplification and at worst just plain wrong", and that children need fat for healthy growth and development.

The book, which features plenty of healthy, low-sugar recipes for children, identifies three 'golden rules' for children's eating, largely based on nutritional advice outlined in the authors' first book, for adults, The Real Meal Revolution.

The rules are simply: no added sugar; no refined carbs; keep it real.

Five-a-day should mean five vegetables, and the occasional fruit, according to the new book on food for children

The book uses traffic lights to separate good and bad foods

Sport and exercise scientist Professor Tim Noakes

No added sugar

It's been known for decades that high sugar consumption causes dental problems and is a cause of obesity, says the book, which points out that sugar offers no nutritional benefit, but is addictive and too much over the long-term can lead to health problems including diabetes, and complications linked to obesity including heart disease and strokes.

The World Health Organisation recommends a total of three to eight teaspoons of sugar a day for children, depending on age, but the book advises aiming for the lower end, promising that following the no added sugar rule will make an "unimaginable difference" to a child's long-term health and wellbeing, and stressing: "How bad is sugar? To put it in perspective, think of it as cocaine for your kids."

No refined carbs

Refined carbs are carbohydrates that have been broken down during food processing. A good example of a refined carb is flour, which is created when a grain, usually wheat, is finely ground. This removes the fibrous outer layer, which contains most of its vitamins and minerals, and the remaining glucose spikes blood glucose levels, says the book, while providing little or no nutritional value. The authors point out that if a child eats a bowl of sugar-coated rice-based cereal, for example, the refined carbs in the rice will break down to sugar too, so the child effectively eats a bowl of sugar.

"This is the path to future obesity and ill-health, so steer clear of all refined carbs," they advise.

Keep it real

Real, non-processed whole foods are the basis of healthy eating, says the book, pointing out that processed foods are packed with sugars and refined carbs, plus various additives "that really shouldn't be passing through your child's body".

Food traffic lights

The book divides foods into Red, Orange and Green lists, which indicate how often they should be eaten by children aged over three who are a healthy weight.

Green: Children can eat freely: vegetables (apart from potatoes), eggs, all meats, poultry, game, fish and shellfish, butter, double cream, hard and soft cheeses (for calcium), cream cheese.

Orange: Children should only consume in moderation: all whole and dried fruit, potatoes, grains such as rice, quinoa and oats, honey.

Red: Children should avoid wherever practical: all confectionery, ice-cream, crisps, commercial breakfast cereals, all breads made from grains containing gluten, commercially-breaded or battered food like chicken nuggets, highly-processed sausages and luncheon meats, all soft drinks and fruit juices.

If this new way of eating seems daunting, Proudfoot says introducing it gradually is a lot better than not doing it at all.

"It would be best to dive right in, but there can only be benefits to removing even the smallest amounts of sugar and refined carbs from one's diet," he explains.

Super Food For Superchildren: Delicious, Low-sugar Recipes For Healthy, Happy Children, From Toddlers To Teens is published by Little Brown, priced £20. Available now

Making the right choice for a secure retirement

ARE you heading for a comfortable retirement? Many people aged 55 and over now have more choice when it comes to how they splash their retirement cash, thanks to the new pension freedoms launched last year.

But new research suggests that, far from looking forward to spending money on far-flung holidays or investing in properties, many over-55s are simply worried about how they will get by in their later years.

A survey of people in this age group found nearly one in three (30 per cent say their financial situation is already "uncomfortable".

Meanwhile, 42 per cent are worried about running out of cash in retirement and 44 per cent are concerned about their future financial security.

The retirement freedoms, introduced in April 2015, give over-55s a greater ability to use their pension pot as they wish, rather than being required to use their pot to buy a retirement income called an annuity.

Alongside the reforms, the free, impartial Pension Wise guidance service has been launched, to help people decide how to make the most of the freedoms.

But Experian's research suggests that many people planning to take money from their retirement pot early will use it to make ends meet.

Around one in six (16 per cent) over-55s surveyed are likely to withdraw some money from their pension pot early, before they reach retirement age. More than one in three (36 per cent) are considering to use the cash to support day-to-day living costs, while 27 per cent plan to pay off debts.

Meanwhile, 15 per cent of over-55s admit they do not understand what the financial options are as a result of the pension freedoms, according to Experian's research among more than 1,800 people in this age group.

Nici Audhlam-Gardiner, managing director at Saga Investment Services, describes the findings as "concerning" adding: "Our research shows that 55 per cent of over-50s expect to retire later than they did five years ago, or have put their retirement on hold."

She continues: "Many also under-estimate how long they may live, and how long their retirement money needs to last them.

"When it comes to accessing retirement savings, people should take care to look at the tax implications of withdrawing too much in one go, and if possible seek advice to make sure that whatever they can spare is invested so it keeps earning before it's needed."

Here are some tips from Experian for taking control of your money management in and approaching retirement:

1. Know what you can afford.

Make use of online budgeting tools or get help from bodies such as Citizens Advice Bureau if you need help in planning your finances. If you take out credit, make sure you'll be able to afford to repay what you owe on time and in full each month – bearing in mind that your disposable income may reduce when you decide to retire.

2. Can the Bank of Mum and Dad afford it.

More than a quarter of over-55s have supported someone else to buy a property, according to previous research from Experian. This is despite one in six (15 per cent) of those who have supported someone else saying they are "not at all" financially comfortable themselves. If you are considering supporting a family member financially, ensure you realistically have the flexibility in your finances to do so and that your financial wellbeing won't suffer in the future as a result.

3. Just because you retire doesn't mean your credit score does.

Although you might have paid off your mortgage and be virtually debt-free, you may wish to access small amounts of credit in the future. Keep your credit score in shape by regularly checking your credit report and consider using a small amount of credit wisely each month.

4. Share your knowledge.

Financial stability in later life often results from careful planning. It's important that younger people don't turn a blind eye to the future and get on top of their finances at an early age to give them the flexibility to plan for the future. Try to ensure you are playing your part and help them learn from your experiences – be they good or bad.

5. Be fraud aware.

Fraudsters are increasingly targeting older people with scams to invest cash into fake schemes that can seem very convincing. Be extra-vigilant in protecting your information online – always use strong, unique passwords for your online accounts, never share bank or other sensitive details via email, and check your bank statements and credit report for unusual activity.

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, July 21, 2016

The cruise took in several beautiful unspoilt islands

The various excursions proved to be great value

Taking in some of the breathtaking island views

Fred's promise of enjoyment fulfilled

BROWSING through the Fred Olsen brochure I was intrigued to read of "Fred's enjoyment promise", an offer made to new guests.

HOLIDAYS

By Chris Hutchinson

My interest was captured when I saw the cruise itinerary on Balmoral including visits to the islands of the Azores, Cape Verdes, Canaries and Madeira, which made it easy to book.

Three days sailing on calm waters under blue skies to our first destination gave us the opportunity to relax and familiarise ourselves with the ship, it was apparent she was a refined vessel with amenities to suit all. We were impressed with presentations given on the ship's excursions, and booked a series, which proved to be great value.

First port in the Azores was the island of Terceira, our tour took us through beautiful countryside reminiscent of our own. On a narrow road we stopped as a herd of cows refused to let us pass. I was fascinated when the herdsman shouted one word which saw them form a straight line for us to continue, if only our grandsons would react to a one word request!

The highlight was the World Heritage Site, the small town of Angra with an array of colourful Portuguese architecture and cobbled streets reflected a timeless place; in the centre a botanical garden adds to the charm.

Next the island of Sao Miguel, weaving our way through lush countryside, ablaze with hedges of hydrangeas and exotic shrubs, we reached the highest point called Sete Cidades a former volcano which crumbled quarter of a million years ago, natures natural development provided surroundings including forests, dales and pastures.

In the centre are two adjoining lakes unique in the fact that one is blue the other green. We stood for half an hour marvelling at nature's best.

We left the Azores with fond memories of islands unspoilt, with landscapes breathtakingly beautiful. As Balmoral seemed to glide across the Atlantic to the Cape Verde islands off the coast of Africa, there was much excitement from fellow passengers as a school of whales passed by at close range.

Arriving on the island of Sao Vincent our tour's first stop was the fish market, ladies dressed in colours straight from the rainbow robustly bargaining their exotic fish, creating an exciting atmosphere, then we moved to the African market where quality goods were sold at keen prices. Arriving at Cat Fish Bay nestling between the Green Mountain and turquoise sea we were entertained by local musicians playing traditional African / Brazilian music, accompanied by dancers whose routine reflected slave warriors preparing to retaliate against slave traders. Local wine, beer and tasty delights were served, I could have watched and listened all day.

The next island Santiago, journeying into the country brought us to Cidade Elvha once a slave colony, this small village lies between two rocky gorges surrounded by tropical trees, bushes and exotic plants. Here a small church built in 1495 was visited by the great explorers Vasco da Gama and Christopher Columbus.

During sunny sailing days to the Canary Islands, I spotted turtles bobbing alongside Balmoral's wake. We were thoroughly enjoying life on board, with a variety of things to do, or relax with a good book.

Tenerife was next, a must to visit is the inland village of Icod de Los Vinos with Mount Tiede as its backdrop.

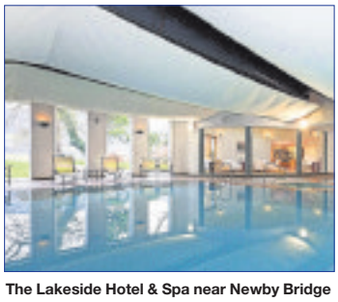
Then it was the smaller island of La Palma, where we walked through the enchanted Laurisilva Forest, sampling local olives, cheeses and wine.

Sailing out of Madeira, our final island visit, Balmoral was joined by a group of dolphins bidding us farewell, a fitting way to end a cruise leaving us with indelible memories.

Was "Fred's enjoyment promise" kept? It certainly was.

Something new to discover on every stop as the Balmoral continued its cruise

Pottering around and discovering a whole new world



The Lakeside Hotel & Spa near Newby Bridge

IT was just over 100 years ago the world-famous author Beatrix Potter sought a hide-out from the smoke of London.

Today, 150 years since the author's birth this area of the Lake District is as untouched, angelic and brilliant as the legacy from her series of books.

It is a three hour drive from the Midlands and it felt like a new world as I turned off the M6 at Kendal.

The roads are quiet, surrounded by hills and forest, and there is freshness in the air as I get out of my car at the splendid Lakeside Hotel & Spa, only a mile from Newby Bridge.

My first stop of the two-day break is Hill Top, Beatrix Potter's paradise. My trip is to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Beatrix's birth. The small working farm, run by National Trust, is filled with mementoes, antiques, furniture left by Beatrix following her death. It is now an inspiring museum, providing a glimpse of an early 20th century working farm.

After two hours exploring I get back in the car and take the short trip to Tarn Hows – a stunning circular walk with majestic mountain views over the region. The exercise provides the perfect excuse for a bite to eat, and I head to the village of Hawkshead, a village untouched by time.

Arriving back at the Lakeside Hotel, I visit the Lakes Aquarium. It features all sorts of incredible creatures and has a fascinating otter show on when I arrive.

Next I board the Windermere Lake Cruise, taking me to several miles up the lake to Bowness, which is the stop off point for Windermere – an old resort which has grown since the opening of the nearby railway in 1847.

Back at the hotel for dinner, The Lakeview Restaurant is first class. I order smoked salmon for starters – probably the best I have ever had.

Then for main course, I enjoy the Herdwick lamb shoulder, served with garden peas, chilli and mint. It is all sublime.

What a place to wind down and find simplicity and nature.

No wonder Beatrix rocked up here all those years ago.

By Alex Ross

Get Baku to expanding city with rich history

Baku has a number of world class hotels

Spotlight on Baku

Currency: Azerbaijani New Manat

Brief overview: Described as being the architectural love child of Paris and Dubai, few cities in the world are developing as quickly as the Azerbaijan capital. Baku is where east meets west, where Europe meets Asia. The city's rich history is prominent in Icari Sahar, its Unesco-listed Old City, which lies within an exotically crenelated arc of fortress walls. Tree-lined boulevards and exclusive boutiques lie in its hinterland. The city has Soviet heritage though a number of tatty old apartment blocks have been torn down and replaced by jaw-droppingly modern masterpieces that out-do Dubai. The city boasts numerous wooded parks and has an idyllic Capsian-front promenade. Baku is increasingly prominent in the world of sport and last year hosted the European Games while earlier this year it staged its first F1 Grand Prix.

Where to stay: Baku has a number of money-no-object world class hotels, including the Fairmont Baku, Four Seasons Hotel Baku and JW Marriott Hotel Absheron Baku. Others are hot on their heels and offer similarly high standards of accommodation and service, including the Jumeirah Bilgah Beach Hotel and the Kempinski Hotel Badamdar Baku.

Baku doesn't have much of a hostel culture, so bargains are harder to come by. There are a couple of backpacker bunk rooms in private apartments and a few budget hotels offering beds in shared rooms, but the city tends to specialise in pricier hotels with friendly, well-meaning service.

What to do: Baku has numerous points of interest, including Maiden Tower, where visitors can enjoy ballet, wine, history and art. Other popular destinations include Palace of the Shirvanshahs, Heydar Aliyev Centre, Azerbaijan Carpet Museum, Baku Museum of Modern Art, Bibi-Heybat Mosque, Bay of Baku, Nizami Museum of Azerbaijani Literature, Fountains Square, National Art Museum, Taza Pir Mosque and Azeri TV Tower. Baku is an eclectic post-Soviet city on the Caspian Sea with intriguing oddities that will have even the most world-weary of travellers tapping their toes in glee.

Where to eat/drink: Azerbaijan's national beverage is black tea and the city has brilliant raw vegetables and herbs.

Motal pendiri is a popular white cheese while pomegranate salad is widely eaten. Lamb sadj is a popular dish and fisinjan – meat in a sweet, dark sauce made from plums, walnuts and pomegranate molasses – is served with pilaf rice.

How to get there: Expect to get flight deals for around £200/£250 from London airports for the five-and-a-half hour flight.

fast theticket

Going for Bust

Racecourse gig – Page 25

Fright night

See Page 25

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Guys And Dolls

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West End star Louise Dearman (pictured) plays nightclub singer Miss Adelaide in this acclaimed revival of the classic New York musical, with Richard Fleeshman and Maxwell Caulfield.
Visit **grandtheatre.co.uk**

The Dead Daisies

Tuesday, 7pm
Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
Classic hard rock from an outfit featuring ex-Mötley Crüe singer John Corabi (pictured) and Whitesnake/Dio guitarist Doug Aldrich. Support is provided by Inglorious.
Visit **www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

The Kentucky Headhunters

Monday, 8pm
Robin 2, Bilston
Southern rock and blues from a US band with musical roots back to the late 1960s, who sold two million copies of 1989 album Pickin' On Nashville. Bad Touch support.
Visit **therobin.co.uk**

Mary Chapin Carpenter

Tuesday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The five-time Grammy Award-winning American singer-songwriter returns with a new album The Things That We Are Made Of, her 14th in total. Rose Cousins support.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

POP

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Call 01743 281281

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Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Ray Quinn
Sun at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Andrew Browning: George Michael Tribute
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

ROCK & METAL

Catapult Club Feat. Superhooch
Tonight at 6.30pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

A Foreigners Journey: Foreigner And Journey Tribute
Tonight,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Guns 2 Roses: Guns N' Roses Tribute
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Definitely Mightbe: Oasis Tribute, Adored: Stone Roses Tribute
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Into The Shadows: Shadows Tribute
Tonight at 7.30pm, £10 - £15
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

The Dead Daisies
Tue at 7pm, £12.50
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

West Coast Eagles: The Eagles Tribute
Tomorrow at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Area 11
Thu at 7pm, £11
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Brolly & Friends 2016 Irish Charity Night
Sun at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band
Tue at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Mary Chapin Carpenter
Tue at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

The White Buffalo
Tonight at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL, FUNK AND MOTOWN

Motown's Greatest Hits: How Sweet It Is...
Sun at 7.30pm, £21 - £23
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Kentucky Headhunters
Mon at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Sax In The City: The Notebenders
Tomorrow at 1.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Electric Swing Circus
Thu at 7pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

CLASSICAL

CBSO Youth Orchestra Academy: Britten, Bridge, Maxwell Davies, Beethoven
Sun at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO: Summer Classics
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

You Boy
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Ventoux
Tonight at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Bollywood Dance Showcase 2016
Sun at 6pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Hound Of The Baskervilles
Sun at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Giant's Loo Roll: TaleGate Theatre
Tue at 2pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Guys And Dolls
Tonight at 7.30pm, tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Barbara Nice's Summer Special
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Mamma Mia!
Tonight at 7.30pm - 10pm, tomorrow at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 10pm, £28 - £60
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

National Youth Dance Company: In-Nocentes
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

COMEDY

EdinBrum Previews: Patrick Monahan & Eddy Brimson
Thu at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Thursday Night Comedy Carousel
Thu at 8pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Tonight at 8.15pm, tomorrow at 8.15pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy In The Met
Tomorrow at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

MISC. EVENTS

Summer Holiday Family Fun
Tomorrow - Thu,
Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

REP Event Showcase
Sun at 11am - 4pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Approaches To Aspects Of Drawing
Tomorrow at 11am - 4pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Young Artists
Tomorrow at 1pm - 3pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

SLAM Wrestling
Wed at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Kings Heath Food Assembly
Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Mabel's Vintage Fair
Sun at 11am - 4pm,
Chasewater Railway, Chasetown, Burntwood, WS8 7NL.
Call 01543 682854

Antiques For Everyone Summer Fair
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Land, Sea And Air
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Kan Xuan
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Jesse Bruton
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

All The World's A Stage
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Inspire 16: The Young Creatives Of Birmingham
Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

A Big Bang: The Origins Of The Pop Art Collection Part 2
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Tales Of The City
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Two Tyres
Tomorrow at 11am - 4pm,
Bilston Craft Gallery, WV14 7LU.
Call 01902 552507

Craft Goes Pop
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

The Lanchester Grand Circus
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Bantock House, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ.
Call 01902 552195

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Reunited Busted back in the race

NOUGHTIES pop favourites Busted are mended... the return of frontman Charlie Simpson after a decade away means that the original trio will be back for a huge end of summer gig at Wolverhampton Racecourse on September 3.

Music Live! presents an afternoon and evening of horse racing and pop music for £38 a ticket (£18 under-18s) and family packages are available. Gates open at 3.20pm and there will be seven races on the all-weather track, starting at 5.50pm, followed by music after the last race.

Singer Charlie Simpson has rejoined former bandmates James Bourne and Matt Willis, after they formed a partnership with McFly in supergroup McBusted for hugely successful arena tours.

Busted themselves had four no1 singles, two albums and sold five million records before enjoying a record-breaking run of 12 sold-out shows at Wembley.

The Essex trio's hits included What I Go To School For, Year 3000, You Said No, Air Hostess, Crashed The Wedding, Who's David and Thunderbirds/3AM.

Charlie said: "A year ago James and I got together and just started hanging out. It really had been 10 years since we hung out. There was this huge void of time where we just didn't speak. Not because he had any issues but I was off doing my own thing, and he was busy, so we just drifted apart.

"And we just started… getting on. It felt really different, somehow, to how it had ten years ago. And the idea crept into my head: what would Busted look like today?"

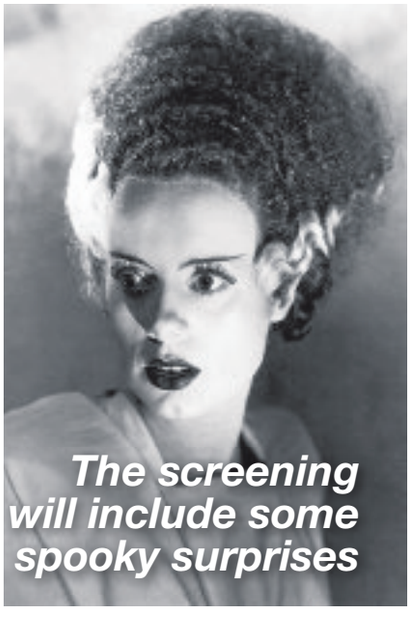
Busted mended – James Bourne, Matt Willis and Charlie Simpson

James, guitarist and the main songwriter, admits he was pessimistic about the return of the band he had co-founded in Southend-on-Sea in 2000, adding: "I thought it was dead and buried when the band had been gone for five years.

"For me, there's a huge sense of unfinished business," says bassist Matt. "I think I always thought in my heart we'd do Busted again."

The Wolverhampton gig extends the band's comeback Pigs Can Fly tour.

See www.wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk for details.



Movie night at the castle

DUDLEY Castle will be the atmospheric backdrop for an outdoor screening of a classic black and white horror movie this summer.

The Bride of Frankenstein, directed by Dudley-born Hollywood movie maker James Whale, will be screened on Saturday, August 6, at an event entitled Dudley Castle After Dark, as part of Birmingham-based Flatpack Film Festival's Black Country Pop-up Film Tour.

The 1935 movie stars Boris Karloff as the Monster and Elsa Lanchester in the dual role of Frankenstein author Mary Shelley and the Monster's mate.

The special screening will include some spooky surprises and the audience are invited to bring their own blanket or chair when the Black Country landmark is transformed into an open-air cinema.

Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions) for the 8pm screening. The film is a PG and runs for 75 minutes.Tickets available from flatpackfestival.org.uk/event/bride-of-frankenstein website.

Mr Whale, who died in 1957 aged 67, came from humble beginnings in Park Hill Street, Buffery Park, to become one of cinema's most influential directors. His work included such classics as Frankenstein and the Invisible Man in the 1930s. One of six children born to a blast furnaceman and a nurse, he attended Kate's Hill Board School, Bayliss Charity School and Dudley Blue Coat School. He began his career as an artist and actor before directing, first in the theatre and then for the silver screen.

Psychedelic rock and boyband pop

PSYCHEDELIC outfit Moon Duo from America's West Coast bring their hazy fuzz rock to Kings Heath pub venue The Hare & Hounds on Friday with support from Birmingham's Victories At Sea. The venue's other room that night hosts Canadian art rockers Weaves with Brum garage rockers Table Scraps. On Saturday Ireland's hottest boy band Taken play the High Street venue, then US soul songstress Conya Doss plays on Wednesday.

On Friday Calfornia's White Buffalo (AKA Jake Smith) is at Digbeth's O2 Institute. Scottish outfit The Lafontaines bring hip hop rock to The Rainbow in Digbeth on Sunday.

Super-sized panto with hint of Spice

THE World's Biggest Pantomime is set to dazzle this Christmas in Birmingham – and it's a real family affair for its biggest star.

Traditional panto Snow White will be 'super-sized' at the Barclaycard Arena with a cast of 100 performers and a 45ft-tall castle. The cast include former Spice Girl Mel B as the Scary Queen with her daughters Angel Murphy, nine, and Madison Belafonte, five, taking part.

The show, December 19-22, also features Take Me Out's Paddy McGuinness, Celebrity Big Brother winner Rylan and star dancers Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace.

Oh Mamma Mia! show is a big hit

SUNSHINE musical Mamma Mia! continues to pull in the crowds at Birmingham Hippodrome, where it runs until September 3. The combination of a Greek island setting, humour and romance with the music of ABBA has proven the perfect recipe for a blockbuster.

That's Entertainment, a show celebrating musical theatre, is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday with West End star Ruthie Henshall. On Sunday Motown tribute show How Sweet It Is visits the Alex for one night. Cult musical Rent is staged at The Old Rep on Station Street from Tuesday to Saturday, July 30

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BLENHEIM PALACE
House & Gardens
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Monday 8th August
LLANDUDNO
Adults £17.00 O.A.P £16.00 Child £14.00
Thursday 11th August
BURNHAM ON SEA
Adults £17.00 O.A.P £16.00 Child £14.00
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CHOICE

Quentin Blake

The Marvellous World of Roald Dahl (BBC2, 8pm)

Documentary, making use of archived letters, writings and biographical material to tell the story of the life of Roald Dahl. From his time as a fighter pilot in the Second World War, though to his work as a spy and his encounters with Walt Disney and Theodore Roosevelt, the programme explores how Dahl's personal experiences may have informed the fantastical tales he would eventually publish, including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Matilda. Includes contributions by Dahl's last wife Liccy, his daughter Lucy and biographer Donald Sturrock. Long-term collaborator Quentin Blake also provides new animated illustrations based on the events of Dahl's life.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.45** Faster, Higher, Stronger: Katarina's Olympic Dream. A profile of Team GB heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson. **1.15** Athletics: London Anniversary Games. Day one from the Olympic Stadium. **5.15 Film:** Toy Story. (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.

6.30 BBC News.

6.40 Regional Programme.

6.50 The Getaway Car. Competitors from London, south Wales and Liverpool are among those taking to the course in South Africa to put their collaborative driving skills to the test.

7.40 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together and answer questions to win a reunion in a five-star location. Includes the weekend draw. Last in the series.

8.30 The Musketeers. Aramis and the Queen attempt to broker peace between France and Spain, but their efforts go disastrously awry when the villainous Grimaud kidnaps Aramis in a bid to seal an alliance with the influential Duke of Lorraine. Lucien's demands threaten to ruin Anne's reputation, and the Musketeers must find a way to rescue their comrade in arms while maintaining the Queen's virtue. However, D'Artagnan's family ties threaten to derail the mission. Meanwhile, the White Plague tightens its grip on King Louis, and as his health goes into a spectacular decline, a familiar face returns to lay claim to Athos. Swashbuckling drama, starring Santiago Cabrera, Matthew McNulty, Alexandra Dowling and Tom Burke.

9.25 BBC News; Weather.

9.45 Mrs Brown's Boys Live. The comedy starring Brendan O'Carroll goes live for a special episode where anything could happen.

10.15 Peter Kay: 20 Years of Funny. A celebration of the comedian's two decades in the business; (R) National Lottery Update.

11.15 Film: The Wedding Video. (2012) Comedy, with Rufus Hound.

12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 The Women's Football Show. (R) **6.55** Coast. (R) **7.45 Film:** The Valley of Gwangi. (1969) **9.20** Taking Flight: Britain's America's Cup Challenge. **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) **1.00 Film:** Day of the Evil Gun. (1968) Western, starring Glenn Ford. **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Full Steam Ahead. (R) **5.30** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Newsnight Special: Life After Brexit.

6.50 Proms Extra 2016. New series. Katie Derham returns with the weekly magazine show, which serves as a companion to the BBC's signature classical music season. With music by Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

7.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and his platoon are ordered to clear the area for a major army exercise – but encounter a problem in the shape of a steam engine blocking the path. (R)

8.00 The Marvellous World of Roald Dahl. Documentary telling the story of the life of Roald Dahl, with contributions by Dahl's wife Liccy, his daughter Lucy, biographer Donald Sturrock and illustrator Quentin Blake.

9.00 Keith Richards: The Origin of the Species. In a documentary directed by acclaimed film-maker Julien Temple, the Rolling Stones guitarist looks back at his formative years in the aftermath of the Second World War.

10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Aisling Bea, Tony Hawks and Alan Davies attempt to answer Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topics of love and loveliness. (R)

10.45 Versailles. With Louis laid low by a major fever, those conspiring against him grow in strength and confidence. Meanwhile, Philippe is caught in the middle; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.45 Film: I Am Number Four. (2011) A teenager with special powers becomes a fugitive from aliens determined to hunt him down and destroy him. Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer and Timothy Olyphant.

1.25 Film: Far from Home. (1989) Thriller, starring Drew Barrymore. **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Wine Show. **1.30** Big Box Little Box. (R) **2.00** Doc Martin. (R) **3.00** The Chase. (R) **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Gold. Harry Hill narrates another selection of comical mishaps filmed by viewers. This week, a mechanic uses an airbag as a launch-pad. A moped selfie causes a nasty accident that results in a string of profanities, and a peck from a tropical bird make's Grandad's eyes water. Plus, a video detailing the dangers of wearing a monkey as a wig. (R)

7.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.

7.45 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man. (2012) A gifted teenager investigates the secrets hidden in his dead parents's past, leading him to a mysterious corporation and an incident that imbues him with superhuman powers. A personal tragedy drives him to use his new-found abilities to fight crime, and he is soon drawn into a deadly battle against a former colleague of his father, who has undergone a devastating transformation of his own. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Rhys Ifans.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: Inside Man. (2006) A negotiator deals with a hostage crisis at a bank, but a political fixer is sent to make sure secrets in the vault stay hidden. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Grid. **6.30** Gillette World Sport. **7.00** Tenerife Bluetrail. **7.25** British Rally Championship. **7.50** Dare to Believe: Georgie Hermitage. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** The Morning Line. **9.55** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Coverage from the Hungaroring. **11.25** The Superhumans Show. **11.55** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from the Hungaroring (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and York. **4.45** A Place in the Sun. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **5.55 Film:** Grease. (1978) Romantic musical, with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

8.00 Alan Carr's Grease Night. Broadcasting live from a 1950s-style high school prom, the presenter is joined by celebrity guests including comedian Katherine Ryan and Didi Conn (Frenchy) to celebrate the film. The programme features dancing, dating and audience surprises, and at the end of the night two lucky revellers will win the ultimate high-school accolade of being crowned prom king and queen.

10.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie. (2011) Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil head to Greece for a wild holiday – but things do not go to plan. Comedy, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley and Blake Harrison.

11.50 Dare to Believe: Jack Rutter. A profile of the captain of Great Britain's disability football team, who will attempt to lead his team to glory at Rio 2016. (R)

11.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Part two of two. The chef continues his quest to transform the fortunes of the Burger Kitchen in Los Angeles, where owner Alan gets a wake-up call from internet critics. (R)

12.55 Film: Rec 3: Genesis. (2012) Horror sequel, starring Leticia Dolera. **2.20** Dare to Believe: Ali Jawad. A profile of powerlifter Ali Jawad. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Lisa decides to set up Zack and Holly, and later she and Sonia fight on The Dog patio. Meanwhile, Cleo and Nathan grow closer, and Kim collapses. (R) **4.25** French Collection. Three Brits aim to buy cheap and sell high after visiting a market in Arles, France. Last in the series. (R) **5.20** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. A couple's bedroom receives a makeover. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Benefits: Can't Work, Won't Work. (R) **1.00** Benefits: 26 Kids & Claiming. (R) **2.00** Benefits: Yorkshire Dole. (R) **3.00** Benefit Beauty Queens. (R) **4.00** World's Strongest Man 2015. (R) **5.00** World's Strongest Man 2015. (R)

6.00 World's Strongest Man 2015. Action from the third heat of the competition, which took place in Malaysia. Reigning champion Zydrunas Savickas took part alongside two-time Britain's Strongest Man Laurence Shahlaei, veteran American Nick Best and former Russian marine Mikhail Shivlyakov. Presented by James Richardson, Charlie Webster and Terry Hollands, with commentary by Colin Bryce and Danny Wallace. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from day two of the Second Test in the four-match series, which took place at Old Trafford. With commentary by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

8.00 NCIS. An NCIS Cyber case becomes a united global effort when evidence confirms that The Calling, an international terror group, has been recruiting vulnerable youngsters via the internet.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including another chance to see last night's eviction, revealing who became the latest unlucky housemate given just 30 seconds to say their goodbyes, and how their departure has affected the others. However, given that the remaining residents will probably all be in Tuesday night's final, it's doubtful that any of them will be too upset.

10.00 Film: The Expendables. (2010) A mercenary team is double-crossed while on a mission to kill a South American dictator. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Jason Statham and Jet Li. Includes 5 News at 11pm.

12.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Search for the Lost Manuscript: Julian of Norwich **8.00** Who Were the Greeks? **9.00** Beck: The Weak Link **10.30** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **12.35** Gershwin's Summertime: The Song That Conquered the World **1.35** Sings James Bond **2.35** Top of the Pops: 1982 **3.15** Close

ITV2

12.35 Catchphrase Celebrity Special **1.35** Ninja Warrior UK **2.35 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **4.20 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.15 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **8.00 Film:** Burlesque (2010) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Burlesque (2010) **10.25** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.10 Agatha Christie's Marple **2.10 Film:** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15 Film:** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **4.00 Film:** Agatha (1979) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Agatha (1979) **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Lewis **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.10** The Jury **1.10** City Lights **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Tour de France Highlights **12.00** Tour de France Live. **4.30** Storage Wars: New York **4.55** Monster Carp **6.00** The Motorbike Show **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Film:** A View to a Kill (1985) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** A View to a Kill (1985) **10.40 Film:** Game of Death (2010) **11.40** FYI Daily **11.45 Film:** Game of Death (2010) **12.45** Motorway Patrol **1.10** Tour de France Highlights **2.05** The Wine Show **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Melissa & Joey **1.30** Baby Daddy **2.30** New Girl **3.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Gogglebox **12.55** Rude Tube **2.55** 2 Broke Girls **3.40** How I Met Your Mother **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Picture Perfect (1997) **1.00** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **2.55** Fast Girls (2012) **4.40** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **6.45** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** RoboCop (2014) **11.15** The Treatment (2014) **1.50** 21 & Over (2013) **3.45** Close

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CHOICE

Dara O Briain

Robot Wars (BBC2, 8pm)
New series. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon host the revival of the series in which radio-controlled robots created by teams of amateur engineers battle it out in an arena. The machines have to make it through an initial group stage, then head-to-head rounds before the heat final. The first show features students from Reading and a family team from Caithness, as well as a memorable robot from the original series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Animal Super Parents. (R) **4.00** Eat Well for Less? (R) **5.00** Lifeline. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. An episode from Cumbria marking Beatrix Potter's 150th birthday, in which Matt Baker visits the places that inspired her work and Naomi Wilkinson meets an artist who depicts inspirational women of the region. Helen Skelton visits a farm run using traditional methods and finds out about Lakeland wrestling, Adam Henson reports on the restoration of a landscape designed by Capability Brown, and Tom Heap investigates calls to ban the world's most common herbicide.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould visit a B&B in Aberdeenshire to pick up where the owner's late husband left off in proving that a painting is the work of 19th-century French artist Paul Delaroche. A visit to the British museum raises evidence that this could be a lost treasure once belonging to France's last king and queen, and they head for Normandy to inspect a stained glass window in the image of a lost Delaroche painting – but they also begin to suspect it is a copy, rather than the original.

9.00 The Secret Agent. Verloc leaves the city for Michaelis' Kent cottage to prepare his bombing plot, taking Stevie with him. Back in London, the Professor prepares to take action against Inspector Heat.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Live at the Apollo. Sarah Millican introduces routines by comedians Steve Hughes and Russell Kane. (R)

11.15 Film: Dinner for Schmucks. (2010) An executive befriends a dim-witted amateur taxidermist in the hope of winning a contest to find the most ridiculous dinner-party guest. Comedy, with Steve Carell and Paul Rudd.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **11.00** A Cook Abroad: Rachel Khoo's Malaysia. (R) **12.00** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. With Helen Glover and Heather Stanning. **1.00** Hitchcock's Leading Actors: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.30 Film:** Rear Window. (1954) Hitchcock thriller, starring James Stewart. **3.20** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** New Zealand: Earth's Mythical Islands. (R) **5.30** Clare Balding Meets.

6.00 Film: Real Steel. (2011) In the future, boxing matches between eight-foot robots are one of the world's biggest sporting draws. A washed-up human prizefighter finds an abandoned android and sets about restoring it to become a potential champion, a project that reunites him with his estranged 11-year-old son. Sci-fi drama, starring Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo and Evangeline Lilly. Edited for daytime broadcast.

8.00 Robot Wars. New series. Radio-controlled robots battle it out in an arena.

9.00 Dragons' Den. New series. Evan Davis presents the business ideas contest, with regular panellists Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Sarah Willingham, Touker Suleyman and Nick Jenkins returning to assess the profit-making potential of the contestants' grand plans. Among the entrepreneurial endeavours in this episode are ideas for miniature pencils, oversized beanbags and a machine for cleaning football boots. However, one contestant finds their hopes may be dashed by the revelation that their company is already heavily in debt.

10.00 Fixing Dad. Two brothers document their efforts to ensure their father adopts a healthier lifestyle, as he struggles with various conditions linked to diabetes that threaten his life.

11.00 Horizon: Sports Doping – Winning at Any Cost? Dr Xand van Tulleken investigates the world of performance enhancing drugs. (R)

12.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **12.55** Holby City. (R) **1.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories; Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Oddbods. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Rebound. (R) **1.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Masterpiece with Alan Titchmarsh. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Astrologer Russell Grant, Atomic Kitten singer Liz McClarnon, Loose Women's Sherrie Hewson and entertainer Des O'Connor compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by pitting their general knowledge against one of the show's resident trivia experts. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)

8.00 Film: Quantum of Solace. (2008) James Bond sets out on a personal mission of vengeance as he pursues the secret criminal organisation Quantum. His search leads him to the head of an ecological corporation, who is plotting to orchestrate a coup in a Latin American country to get his hands on a precious natural resource. Spy thriller sequel, starring Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Judi Dench, Gemma Arterton and Mathieu Amalric.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Film: I Am Legend. (2007) A Manhattan-based scientist tries to find a cure for a viral plague that has turned all other humans into vampire-like creatures. Sci-fi thriller, with Will Smith and Alice Braga.

12.05 River Monsters. Part two of two. Jeremy Wade heads to Norway. (R) **12.30** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Highlights from Oulton Park. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Shipping Wars. (R) **6.40** Shipping Wars. (R) **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Dare to Believe: Natasha Baker. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Live. Coverage from the Hungaroring (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Anniversary Games Athletics 2016. **4.00** Dare to Believe: Jordanne Whiley. (R) **4.05** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **5.05 Film:** Toy Story That Time Forgot. (2014) Premiere. Short animated comedy, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. **5.30 Film:** Finding Nemo. (2003) Animated adventure, with the voices of Albert Brooks and Ellen DeGeneres.

7.30 Channel 4 News.

8.00 Saddam Goes to Hollywood. Documentary telling the story of a disastrous movie bankrolled by Saddam Hussein in the 1980s, which was to tell the story of the founding of Iraq. War with Iran disrupted filming, while the movie's star, Oliver Reed, horrified the locals with his heavy drinking. Although the film was completed, the tapes were subsequently lost – only to be recovered years later. Cast and crew are reunited to watch never-before-seen rushes and behind the scenes footage.

9.00 Film: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. (2013) Premiere. An ordinary man seeks solace from his mundane life by drifting into daydreams where he is a heroic figure. When he and a friend are faced with unemployment, he is propelled into a globetrotting adventure in real life. Comedy drama based on James Thurber's short story, directed by and starring Ben Stiller.

11.05 Friday Night Dinner. Dad accidentally invites someone he hates to come round for dinner, and has to find a way to get rid of him. Fourth series of the sitcom, starring Paul Ritter. (R)

11.40 Dare to Believe: Hannah Cockroft. A profile of the British wheelchair athlete, who holds the Paralympic and world records for both the 100m T34 and 200m T34 events. (R)

11.45 Formula 1 2016 Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights.

12.45 Film: Escape from Alcatraz. (1979) **2.40** Born on the Same Day. (R) **3.35** Superfoods: The Real Story. (R) **4.00** Posh Pawn. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina: The Next Steps. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Access. (R) **10.40** Now That's Funny! (R) **11.40** Now That's Funny! (R) **12.40 Film:** RV: Runaway Vacation. (2006) **2.30 Film:** Dennis the Menace Strikes Again. (1998) **4.00** World's Strongest Man 2015. (R) **5.00** World's Strongest Man 2015. (R)

6.00 World's Strongest Man Final 2015. Action from the Grand Final of the competition, which took place in Malaysia, as the 10 competitors who made it past the heats went head to head for the trophy. Last in the series. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from day three of the Second Test in the four-match series, which took place at Old Trafford.

8.00 Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Compilation of internet videos featuring dogs doing bizarre and humorous things. Narrated by Iain Lee, with contributors Dave Spikey, Matt Richardson and Zoe Lyons.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights as the remaining housemates start their final week under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother.

10.00 Lip Sync Battle US: Star Trek Special. LL Cool J and Chrissy Teigen invite Star Trek Beyond stars Zoe Saldana and Zachary Quinto to take part in a mime-off – with help from Cindy Crawford and T-Boz and Chilli of TLC. (R)

11.00 20 Moments That Shocked Pop. Countdown of significant performers, songs or occasions that impacted the genre, including 1985's global Live Aid event, which redefined how society donated to charity. (R)

12.30 Lip Sync Battle. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2016: A Child of Our Time **8.15** Playing Beethoven's Fifth **9.00** Classic Albums: The Beach Boys – Pet Sounds **10.00** Arena: 1966 – 50 Years Ago Today **11.00** Definitely Dusty **12.00** The Secret Life of Waves **1.00** Yellowstone **2.00** Classic Albums: The Beach Boys – Pet Sounds **3.00** Arena: 1966 – 50 Years Ago Today **4.00** Close

ITV2
12.50 Take Me Out **1.50** Catchphrase **2.30 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **4.20 Film:** King Kong (2005) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **7.55 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** Bordertown **12.00** American Dad! **1.00** The Cleveland Show **2.00** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.55 A Touch of Frost **2.10 Film:** Agatha (1979) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20 Film:** Agatha (1979) **4.10 Film:** Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **6.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** The Booze Cruise **10.10 Film:** Steptoe and Son (1972) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15 Film:** Steptoe and Son (1972) **12.15** Wire in the Blood **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.45** On the Buses **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
11.00 The Motorbike Show **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live. The final stage of this year's race. **7.00** The Wine Show **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00** Tour de France Highlights **10.00 Film:** Unforgiven (1992) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10 Film:** Unforgiven (1992) **12.40** Motorway Patrol **1.10** Tour de France Highlights **2.10** Hell on Wheels **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 The Goldbergs **2.30 Film:** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **4.10** Rude(ish) Tube **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.05** Rich Kids of Instagram **1.10** Containment **2.10** Gogglebox **3.05** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
11.00 Sunshine on Leith (2013) **1.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) **2.50** Dunston Checks In (1996) **4.35** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **6.45** Ender's Game (2013) **9.00** Die Hard (1988) **11.40** The Others (2001) **1.45** Cedar Rapids (2011) **3.35** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Perfect Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Despite having left his girlfriend behind in New York City for a promotion in Portland, Brandon hopes that they can make things work long-distance. But his new co-worker Simone has other ideas and she impersonates both Brandon and his absent girlfriend in order to end their relationship. Thriller, starring Adrienne Frantz, Jon Cor and Ashley Leggat. (2015)

TUESDAY
A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Librarian sleuth Aurora Teagarden inherits a house when her friend unexpectedly dies and discovers her new home has a skull hidden in a window seat. She sets out to discover who the victim was, but finds herself thrown into a troubling murder mystery and a street full of suspicious neighbours. Mystery, starring Candace Cameron Bure, Peter Benson and Dave Collette. (2015)

The Nutty Professor, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
The Reader, Channel 4, 1.35am
A teenager embarks on a brief but passionate affair with an older woman, who seeks solace from her misery in the stories he reads to her. Years later, while observing the Nazi war crimes trials, he encounters her again and learns she acted as an SS concentration camp guard during the Second World War. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning Kate Winslet alongside Ralph Fiennes, Jeanette Hain and David Kross. (2008)

FRIDAY
The Nutty Professor, ITV, 10.40pm
An obese, terminally shy professor invents a potion that transforms him into a slim, loud-mouthed charmer. His new streamlined self immediately sets out to woo the woman of his dreams – but soon starts to ride roughshod over everything he used to care about. Remake of the 1963 Jerry Lewis comedy, starring Eddie Murphy, James Coburn, Larry Miller, Jada Pinkett Smith, Dave Chappelle, John Ales, Patricia Wilson and Jamal Mixon. (1996)

Dawn has to rethink her whole future

Who was it that claimed there are no good roles for women over a certain age, and that females are under-represented in TV drama?

Clearly they haven't been watching British telly recently, where the likes of Happy Valley, Vera, Marcella and From Darkness, to name but a few, have garnered acclaim and great ratings in equal measure.

Brief Encounters, which started four weeks ago, can now be added to that impressive list.

Set in the drab surroundings of the unemployment-hit Sheffield of 1982, it charts the lives of a group of women as they attempt to spice up their existences and earn extra, much-needed money by hosting parties selling exotic lingerie and what are euphemistically described as 'marital aids'.

One of the few members of the cast who remember the period in which the series is set is Penelope Wilton who, in 1982, was appearing in Major Barbara at London's National Theatre.

"Major Barbara was directed by Peter Gill and was a wonderful play by Shaw," says Wilton when asked for her memories of that era. "I was at the National for a long time.

"We didn't have social media but there were a lot of other things going on. No one was innocent after the war. I think it was a more informed time. I'm not entirely sure that more availability has made anyone any more informed – in fact, quite the contrary."

The Downton Abbey veteran plays Pauline, a housewife who loves her social-climbing husband Brian but is unfulfilled by her meek and mild role in life.

"She has been the stay-at-home wife without seemingly much going on in her life," explains Wilton. "She's quite a solitary person who seems to have a sadness about her. She meets other friends; they have coffee and attend the odd Rotary Club dinner or play Bridge. She feels there is nothing remarkable about her as a person. She has simply fitted in.

"Pauline lives this solitary life, but she comes to realise with the friends she has made through the parties that she has a support, which she is very grateful for."

Pauline would have loved to have been a mother, and her relationship with Dawn gives her an opportunity to create a sort of surrogate family, which is one of the delights of the programme.

"Her relationship with Dawn, who she meets in the hairdresser's, becomes very important," reveals the actress. "Dawn needs a temporary home so Pauline takes her in and finds she really enjoys having these younger people in the house.

"It doesn't go down very well with her husband Brian who is used to having things in order and an ordered lifestyle. Then this new situation disrupts his world. But, of course, it gives Pauline a role to play and she finds that very invigorating and satisfying."

In this week's episode, she will no doubt have to offer Dawn a shoulder to cry on and a few well-chosen comforting words as her lodger learns that Russell is beginning to get cold feet about their wedding.

Sophie Rundle stars in Brief Encounters, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

Monday
Eden
Channel 4, 9pm
You may know the format by now: 23 men and women attempt to start a new society from scratch in the wilds of the Highlands. This second instalment follows the group as they attempt to organise their new world. Having moved into the camp, the participants must now get used to living with each other, which is easier for some than it is for others. With winter coming, Anton is spending more time building his cabin in the woods.

TUESDAY
The Living and the Dead
BBC1, 9pm
An engineer is spooked by a gruesome apparition on All Hallows Eve, and when he and his colleagues flee the scene, the railway company suspends all work. The village's residents pass the incident off as excessive nervousness on the part of city-folk unaccustomed to rural life, but when the hauntings start to take a lethal bent, even they concede there is 'something wrong' with their home. Blame turns to the Appleby's, whose return co-incided with the supernatural influx, and an increasingly unhinged Nathan earns the ire of not only his own wife, but also Harriet's father.

WEDNESDAY
The Three Day Nanny
Channel 4, 8pm
Kathryn Mewes is back, and in the first of a new series she heads for Northamptonshire where the Scott family are at their wits' end. Two-year-old Freddie and three-year-old Bobbie pinch, punch, kick or bite anyone they meet, and parents Chris and Becky are desperate to stop them. It's obvious that things are going to have to change for the sake of their family, and their loved ones as this is some of the most extreme behaviour Kathryn has seen. She needs to give the couple a wake-up call, and as the first of her three days helping the family begins, she wastes little time teaching a new approach to managing their boys' attitudes.

Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Fifty-year-old Deborah Ozturk has spent years longing to find her birth mother and thank her for the sacrifice she made when she gave her up as a baby. Meanwhile, 74-year-old Ray Jones from West Sussex realised as an adult that there was a void in his life, after he was separated from his mother and younger brother at the age of two. However, during his search for his family the previous year, he accessed his case file and is now haunted by a missed opportunity. Presented by Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell.

THURSDAY
Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch
Channel 5, 9pm
Just when you thought it was safe to turn Channel 5 back on, here comes yet another take on the BB format – this time featuring celebrities. Or does it? In recent years, viewers have been left scratching their heads by the identities of some of the 'famous faces' who've moved in. Hopefully, this time the majority of them will at least be familiar to the general public. As always, Emma Willis introduces each one as they enter, ready to have their every word and move recorded.

Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch, Friday, Channel 5, 9pm

FRIDAY
Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. From hundreds of entries received, just 32 have made it on to the judges' shortlist for 2016 – and only one will take the ultimate shed accolade. George Clarke begins his annual quest by turning his attentions to those sheds in the Unique and Historic categories. These include a shed that rotates 360 degrees to follow the sun and another that can hit the road. Also on display are a faithful replica of an Anglo Saxon longhouse and a Vietnam War bunker in Staffordshire.

Celebrity MasterChef
BBC1, 8.30pm
The remaining three competitors' penultimate challenge is the toughest and most daunting of the competition – the Chef's Table, hosted by Michelin star chef Atul Kochhar at Benares, where they must master new techniques and unfamiliar ingredients to impress some of the best chefs in the UK. Judging the food are Cyrus Todiwala, Alyn Williams, Sabrina Ghayour, Romy Gill and Ed Baines. Back at headquarters, the finalists are tasked to present a faultless three-course meal for John Torode and Gregg Wallace – their last chance to prove that they have what it takes to be crowned champion.

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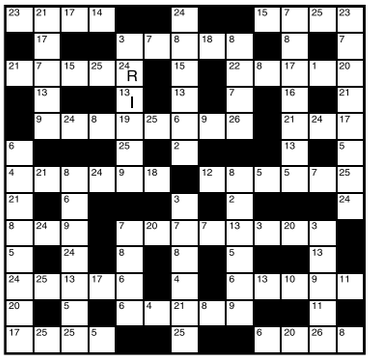

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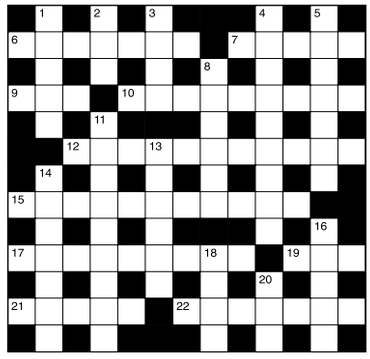
13 I	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	V	G	T	Z	L	Y	D	P	B	O	H	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	A	M	W	Q	R	X	J	S	C	U	K	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Pretended to have a meal including mixed gin (7)
7. Open place where nations' delegates meet to drink? (5)
9. This farmyard feature will make an eyesore! (3)
10. Giving a service address (9)
12. To promote a greater number in addition (11)
15. See 3 Down.
17. What one may do to distort man's image? (9)
19. How many can be found in the department working? (3)
21. She changed her name from Alice (5)
22. Describing a belted dress not put to good use, we hear (7)

Down

1. See 16 Down.
2. I could be obsessed by this mania (3)
3 & 15 Ac. He is most likely to succeed (4-11)
4. Not settled about what to do next in chess? (2,3,4)
5. They forbid slogans carried by demonstrators (7)
8. Some money required for a gift (6)
11. Just the person to look after the sick girl (6)
13. Dealing successfully with a shrew (6)
14. Commendations to bring up in a postscript (7)
16 & 1 Dn. Confectionery or the dessert course before the lamb and pork etc. (10)
18. Clothing often changed by the driver (4)
20. Cleopatra's part will inevitably reveal it (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Obtain (7)
7. Fumble (5)
9. Suitable (3)
10. Profitable (9)
12. Estimate (11)
15. Announcement (11)
17. Innumerable (9)
19. Assume (3)
21. Centre (5)
22. Skull (7)

Down

1. Pungent (5)
2. Flow (3)
3. Release (4)
4. Learning (9)
5. Promoter (7)
8. Knave (6)
11. Bravery (9)
13. Ring (6)
14. Get back (7)
16. Fashion (5)
18. Certain (4)
20. Conclude (3)

Sudoku

8							2	7
					9		6	
	3	4					1	
		2	3		7			
4			2		8			3
			6		1	2		
	5					7	8	
	4		7		6			
1	8							9

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	3	1	4	6	2	8	5
2	4	1	5	7	8	9	3	6
6	5	8	2	9	3	4	1	7
9	7	4	8	3	5	6	2	1
8	3	2	7	6	1	5	4	9
5	1	6	4	2	9	3	7	8
1	6	9	3	8	4	7	5	2
4	8	7	9	5	2	1	6	3
3	2	5	6	1	7	8	9	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Beyond the pale; 8 Full stop; 9 Road; 10 Sapper; 12 Aslope; 14 Ascend; 16 Despot; 18 Etui; 20 Looked on; 22 Insignificant. Down: 1 Refusals; 2 Roll up; 3 Adit; 4 Whip-hand; 5 Spiral; 6 Plea; 11 Redolent; 13 Propound; 15 Elcit; 17 Sketch; 19 Tone; 21 Oafs.
QUICK - Across: 7 Unpretentious; 8 Cardinal; 9 Tier; 10 Agreed; 12 Sprite; 14 Trowel; 16 Dreary; 18 Peri; 20 Velocity; 22 In short supply. Down: 1 Endanger; 2 Bridge; 3 Stun; 4 Enclosed; 5 Bitter; 6 Cure; 11 Delivery; 13 Throttle; 15 Weight; 17 Escape; 19 Erne; 21 Last.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which once widespread group of languages is divided into Brythonic and Goidelic groups?
2. Which band's first hit single was Seven Seas of Rhye?
3. Which king abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson?
4. Who wrote King Solomon's Mines in 1885?
5. Which gas was identified in the same year by both Priestley and Scheele?
6. On which Japanese city was the second atomic bomb dropped in 1945?
7. What is a leucocyte?
8. Which footballer received a fifteen-month worldwide ban after failing a drugs test at the 1994 World Cup?
9. Which bay separates Miami Beach from Miami?
10. Who won the 1995 US Masters at Augusta?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Klaus Barbie; 2 Jakarta; 3 Quod erat demonstrandum; 4 Cuckooflower; 5 Telstar; 6 Peruvian; 7 Charles I; 8 Lead; 9 Kolkata; 10 Fibrositis.

Niner: PRACTISED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1258 gives a servant,
23946 gives a middleman,
374124 gives a bandit.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Experience Rail Travel as it used to be aboard our Special Train and make some Magical Memories for yourself

The Cornishman

Saturday 17th September

Pick-up stations:
Stourbridge Junction, Kidderminster and Droitwich Spa.

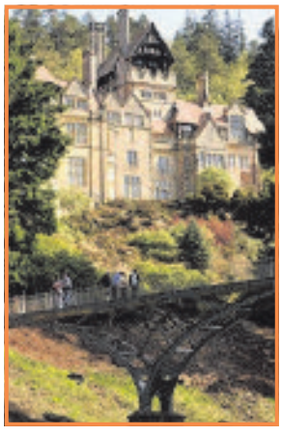
After picking up we enjoy a non-stop run to Plymouth, via the Somerset Levels, Dawlish coast and south Devon hills before crossing the Tamar into Cornwall over Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge for the attractive run through Cornwall's undulating countryside to lines end at the colourful harbour town of Penzance.

Visit Northumberland

Saturday 27 August

The Northumbrian Explorer

Pick-up stations:
Droitwich Spa, Kidderminster & Stourbridge Junction



Explore Durham or Newcastle-Upon-Tyne or try an off-train option:-
✪ North Sea Tall Ships Regatta at Blyth*;
✪ Cragside House, Gardens & Woodland (National Trust)*;
✪ Historic Alnwick; or ✪ A Northumbrian coach tour*

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	Adult	Junior	Party of 4	
Standard Class	£85	£42	£320	Your choice of reserved seating Tables for 4 aligned with panoramic windows
First Class	£124	£84	£476	Comfy seats at tables for 4 or 2 (with guaranteed window seats - supplement £28 each) As First Class with addition of light refreshments served through the day
First Class Plus	£139	£99	£536	As First Class with addition of silver service dining - Full English Breakfast, 'elevenses' & four course evening dinner with glass of wine
Premier Dining	£219	£179	£856	

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Glorious grub – the meatballs slathered in tomato sauce

Charming location tucked away at the end of a row of shops

Meat feast – the hot dog pizza has a generous amount of topping

Homely feel to the inside of Little Italy

Quirky – but actually there is a lot to like at charming Little Italy

By Pete Cashmore

WHEN I saw the flyer, pinned to the village notice board, announcing that a new Italian restaurant was opening in the village, I was beyond excited.

For sure, we at Tettenhall already have Steve Bull's Bravaccio's, and mighty fine it is too, but something about the name of Little Italy told me that it was altogether more rustic, more homely.

Well, I've eaten at Little Italy now about 10 times, and I have to say it's extraordinary. Now, before I go any further, let me elaborate. It's not extraordinarily GOOD, however good it is. It's extraordinary as in bizarre. Extraordinary as in surreal.

It's run, cheffed and occasionally waitered too by a swarthy (I pondered whether this might be a tad racist but it's the only word for it) balding gentleman who has come to greet me as a friend. He's friendly. He's busy. One thing I'm not sure he is, is actually Italian. I just can't place the accent. That said, I found out that his name is Gino, so he might actually be.

It's not important – what is, is that it's an entirely unique experience. To explain what I mean, here are some of the toppings you CAN'T get for the pizzas – chicken, bacon. pepperoni, but surely that is THE default topping for pizzas – but not here. What you can get is sliced hot dog, and chicken tikka.

Furthermore, if you order one of these pizzas, you may well not end up with what you actually ordered. The hot dog pizza, for example, lists hot dog sausage as its only topping, which I would say is to be expected. But if you don't specifically stipulate it, you'll end up with olives and onions as well, despite the fact that there are plenty of options on the menu where olives and onions are specifically stipulated in the toppings list. It's just baffling, and I for one love it!

Perfection

My favourite thing about Little Italy is that our chef doesn't seem to realise that, once you have blasted a 12 inch deep pan to fluffy perfection – and their deep pans are, make no mistake about it, nudging perfection – then the pan itself has a tendency to be, you know, pretty hot.

And yet our intrepid host, for some reason, insists on slicing the pizza on the pan and picking up the pan to empty it into the box. And every time he does it, you can see that he's scalding his fingers. God love him! But the point at which you realise that Little Italy is a bit special, is when you see the prices. Try these on for size.

Cans of soft drink (there is no alcohol served in Little Italy, although you can bring your own): 70p. Garlic bread: £1, £1.20 with a coating of mozzerella. Burger: £2.50. Tiramisu: £1.50.

Lasagne (and the lasagne at Little Italy is fabulous): £5.95. Throw in two meatballs: add another quid. Ice cream sundae composed of a selection of seven available flavours of high-quality Italian tackle: £3.

I know! You are, often literally, talking as cheap as chips – the most expensive item on the menu is steak, and that comes for the princely sum of £12.

Little Italy is not a fancy restaurant, it's rough and ready but it's in a charming location, tucked away at the end of a row of shops on the highest bit of Upper Green and you can eat outside if the feeling takes you.

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

A spacious and well-maintained chalet-style home

Deceptively spacious and well maintained, 2 Chase Road, Gornal Wood, Dudley, is a Chalet-style residence, for sale through Wakeman Estates at £259,950.

It has an entrance porch with tiled flooring, an entrance hall, a shower room with a shower cubicle with a Mira shower, vanity wash hand basin, low level WC, towel rail, tiled flooring and walls and a cupboard.

The lounge/dining room has a bow window, a marble fireplace with a gas living flame fire and an inner hall with a staircase to the first floor.

Bedroom one lies on the ground floor towards the rear and has a range of built-in wardrobes.

The kitchen has a stainless steel sink top, base cupboards, wall cupboards, drawer unit, work surfaces, a Bosch electric oven, a DeDietrich gas hob with an extractor hood over and plumbing for a washing machine, tiled flooring and part tiled walls.

The conservatory has twin doors leading to the rear garden. Off the first floor landing is bedroom two which overlooks the rear and bedroom three which overlooks the front. The bathroom has a Jacuzzi and spa bath with a Mira shower over, vanity wash hand basin, low level WC, towel rail and tiled walls.

Outside is a brick block paved driveway providing ample off road parking and with a sliding wrought iron gate. There is also lawn, borders and shrubs. A gated side entrance leads to a large level rear garden being predominantly walled and incorporating a paved patio, lawns, pergola and a useful brick store.

Wakeman Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents is a well established, independent firm well known locally for honest, friendly and professional service, with properties for sale and to let throughout the Sedgley, Dudley, Gornal, Tipton and Coseley areas.

Wakeman are members of the team network of estate agents, multi-listing your property with hundreds of other estate agents around the country, as well as marketing on Teamprop.co.uk and other major property websites, such as Rightmove and onthemarket.com

GORNAL WOOD £259,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Wakeman Estates
TEL: 01902 885894
EMAIL: sedgley@wakeman-online.com

KEY FEATURES

Chalet-style residence
Well maintained
Improved
3 bedrooms
Conservatory

Taylors

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HIMLEY, Bridgnorth Road

A PERIOD DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE offering an EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS layout, RECENTLY IMPROVED comprising: Porch, Hall, large Lounge, formal Dining Room, Second Sitting Room, spacious Dining / Kitchen, Utility, Guest Cloaks/WC, FIVE BEDROOMS and SPACIOUS FAMILY BATHROOM. LARGE DRIVE, GARAGE and BROAD REAR GARDEN private and sunny. EPC D

£455,000

KINGSWINFORD, Stream Road

A FINE & IMPOSING EDWARDIAN DETACHED FAMILY HOME gently elevated within this sought after address, set beyond the large block paved driveway, LONG GARAGE and with a BEAUTIFULLY ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN, offering a GENEROUS layout which retains original period features and including Three Reception Rooms plus THREE/ FOUR Bedrooms. EPC E

No upward chain

£399,950

WOMBOURNE, Cushman Avenue

Forming part of this delightful cul de sac upon the countryside fringe of highly sought after Wombourne Village, this MOST IMPRESSIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an exceptionally spacious FOUR BEDROOM layout of luxury appointed and beautifully presented accommodation including an EN-SUITE, plus a driveway, DOUBLE GARAGE and a pleasant rear garden which benefits an open rear aspect. EPC C

Offers in the Region Of £369,950

PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

An OUTSTANDING INDIVIUALLY DESIGNED SUPERIOR DETACHED FAMILY HOME set back beyond the LARGE GATED DRIVEWAY and with a beautifully laid out private rear garden, offering an INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS layout of EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED accommodation with a LARGE CONSERVATORY, FOUR LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS and TWO EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOMS. EPC: TBA

£284,950

SEDGLEY, Alder Coppice, Northway

Gas centrally heated Detached offering TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL upon wide plot comprising; hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, store room, conservatory. Gallery landing, Four bedrooms, bathroom. Double garage, garden. Offers based on £260,000 to be submitted for the Vendors consideration by Midday Monday 25th July 2016. EPC:TBA. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £260,000

KINGSWINFORD, Grantley Crescent

A very rare opportunity to purchase a SUBSTANTIAL MODERN TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW within Valleyfields, offering a well presented layout, enhanced by a LARGE CONSERVATORY. With long driveway, GARAGE and a landscaped sunny garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£249,950

COSELEY, Flamborough Way

Extremely well presented DETACHED property in popular cul-de-sac location in Coseley. Well appointed family home boasts, entrance hall, living room, dining room, utility room, guest W/C, conservatory, FOUR BEDROOMS, en-suite to master, family bathroom, enclosed landscaped rear garden, driveway to front, garage, central heating and double glazing. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £229,950

LOWER GORNAL, The Straits, Shakespeare Road

Spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & majority uPVC double glazed detached bungalow within reasonable walking distance of so many day -to-day amenities briefly comprising porch, central reception hall, cloaks, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, pantry, store, through lobby. Brick garage (automated door), secluded rear garden. EPC. D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000

WALL HEATH, Albert Street

A VERY DECEPTIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a LARGE REAR GARDEN, superbly located, close to Village shops and desirable schools, offering a GENEROUS layout which includes TWO GOOD RECEPTION ROOMS and THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. EPC D

No upward chain

£209,950

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DUDLEY, Wistmans Close, Milking Bank

Attractive imposing spacious gas centrally heated part UPVC double glazed detached family home occupying a fine corner plot at head of favoured cul-de-sac. Reception hall, spacious 16'3" lounge, dining room (with patio doors out to garden), kitchen (with split level oven hob), pantry, fitted cloakroom, further living/bedroom. FOUR BEDROOMS (principle with upgraded shower room en suite), upgraded bathroom, garage, extensive sheltered level garden with large slabbed patio. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £270,000

DUDLEY, Vauxhall Gardens

Imposing freehold gas centrally heated either UPVC or aluminium double glazed detached built to a first class specification in the 1950's and conscientiously maintained over the years. Set in favoured 'tree-lined' cul-de-sac with magnificent panoramic views. Accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, store, 20ft through living/dining room with bay, kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, reappointed 'wet room' (former bathroom), garage, delightful expertly tended gardens. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £220,000

WOLVERHAMPTON, Woodhall Road, Penn

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY to own a good-sized family home on the popular Woodhall Road. Offering AMAZING POTENTIAL, this SEMI-DETACHED residence boasts; hall, two reception rooms, kitchen. Being EXTENDED to the rear it also offers ground floor shower room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden with drive and garden to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:TBA. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £180,000

WOODSETTON, Pool Street

Conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated (combi boiler),double glazed & cavity wall insulated detached with LARGE GARAGE (opposite). Presented in exemplary order, accommodation includes; hallway, inner hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen with integrated oven, hob and extractor. Three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, Extensive loft. Block paved drive, magnificent rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Price: £180,000

UPPER GORNAL, Pale Street

SPACIOUS, NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated, double glazed dormer style detached with flexible room arrangements. Conveniently situated, the accommodation comprises; hall, stylish BATHROOM, double bedroom, magnificent 'hub of the house' 19 ft living/dining room/kitchen. To first floor is a large 20'7" principal bedroom with shower room en suite.Parking, gardens, distant views. EPC: SAP: B. SEDGLEY

Offers in region of £179,950

COSELEY, Bramford, Dalwood Close

A traditional semi-detached property situated in the popular cul-de-sac location of Dalwood Close in Woodsetton. As well as having gas central heating and double glazing, this EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM family home also boasts an entrance porch, hallway, TWO RECEPTIONS, guest W/C, FABULOUS BREAKFAST KITCHEN, utility, attractive fitted family bathroom, garage-storage, enclosed rear garden, drive to front. This property is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £179,950

SEDGLEY, Brandon Close (Off Richmond Road)

SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED gas centrally heated (combi boiler) double glazed semi detached at head of quiet cul-de-sac so convenient for the Bull Ring and all other amenities comprising; porch, hall, store, through living/dining room, extended 19'7" kitchen and a further breakfast room beyond. Three bedrooms (all with fitted/built in units), bathroom, separate toilet. Large Garage (subdivided to create lobby and fitted cloakroom) garden, block paved drive. EPC: D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £175,000

BRIERLEY HILL, The Breeze

This VERSATILE FOUR BEDROOM HOME comprises: Hall, Guests WC, Office, STUNNING KITCHEN BEING OPEN PLAN TO ATTRACTIVE LOUNGE, Delightful conservatory, FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS (Master with En Suite), Modern Bathroom, Garage & Lovely Garden. EPC C

£174,950

DUDLEY, Selborne Road

With views of the nearby Buffery Park, This TRADITIONAL & EXTENDED, DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Guests W.C, THREE BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Separate W.C, Driveway, Garage & HUGE GARDEN. EPC F

£169,950

SEDGLEY, Northway, Linfield Gardens

An delightful EXTENDED gas centrally heated majority UPVC double glazed semi detached at head of cul-de-sac (with good distant views) in favoured district. Well presented accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, breakfast kitchen with various integrated appliance's, under stair store, extended 18ft living/dining room (with patio doors), three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom with white suite, brick garage, secluded garden. EPC Rating TBC SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £167,000

WOMBOURNE, Bumblehole Meadows

An IMMACULATE & BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED END MEWS, superbly placed within a sought after cul de sac location, offering a GENEROUS layout, including TWO EXCELLENT BEDROOMS. With DRIVEWAY and with a GOOD SIZED and BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN. EPC TBA

£162,500

WOODSETTON, Rosemary Crescent

COMPREHENSIVELY MODERNISED TO AN EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH SPECIFICATION! Extended, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached with porch, hall, store, lounge, utility room, cloakroom, dining kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Potential off road parking, landscaped rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £150,000

DUDLEY, Cardoness Place

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas centrally heated double glazed (majority UPVC) semi detached in favoured/convenient district (close to Milking Bank amenities) with entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, potential garage space, sheltered expertly landscaped rear garden.. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Fixed Price £150,000

NETHERTON, Bratch Close

This DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS & VERY WELL PRESENTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Superb Lounge, Well Fitted Kitchen Diner, Three BRILLIANT FIRST FLOOR Bedrooms, Contemporary Bathroom, Driveway & Attractive Garden. EPC: D

£149,950

NETHERTON, Mushroom Green

With parts of this CHARMING DETACHED COTTAGE dating back to the late 1600s, this GRADE II listed home has maintained many of its original features & comprises: Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Wet Room, Two Bedrooms & Garden. EPC:

£149,950

COSELEY, Berrington Drive

ENLARGED gas centrally heated double glazed THREE BEDROOM semi detached virtually at head of cul-de-sac briefly comprising; hallway, lounge, kitchen with an extensive range of 'Old English Cream' finish units and 'office section' off together with fitted cloakroom, CONSERVATORY, three bedrooms, shower room with white suite, shortened garage, garden. EPC :D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £148,000

RUSSELLS HALL, Grenville Road

This BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED & THOUGHTFULLY ENLARGED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Attractive through Lounge, Conservatory, Superb Well Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Modern Shower Room, Driveway, Established Garden. EPC:

£147,950

SEDGLEY, Gibbons Hill Road

SPACIOUS, stylish, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed end "starter home" with lengthy garden abutting on to "The Beacon". Tremendously improved in recent years with porch, hall, lounge, dining room (double French doors out to garden), refitted kitchen, store, pantry, lobby, utility section, toilet. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Potential off road parking, superb gardens with brick store. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,000

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New

DUDLEY, Stourbridge Road

This DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Pleasant Lounge with Dining Area, Kitchen, Beautifully Appointed Shower Room, Attractive Driveway, Integrated Garage, Substantial Garden. EPC:

£144,950

New

COSELEY, Hurst Hill, Crowsbridge Mews

An attractive exceptionally stylish and significantly enhanced freehold gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed two bedroom semi detached occupying a fine corner plot in favoured/ convenient district. Superb accommodation includes entrance vestibule, lounge with 'living flame' gas fire, transverse dining kitchen, two generous bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with contemporary white suite, lengthy driveway, substantial brick 'contractors' garage, delightful secluded garden landscaped to ensure 'low maintenance' EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £143,000

New

COSELEY, Shaw Road

An significantly ENLARGED gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed and recently redecorated throughout semi detached convenient for rail station and many other amenities. Appreciably spacious accommodation includes entrance porch, hallway, fitted cloakroom, 16'6" living/dining room, 22'10" through breakfast kitchen, three generous bedrooms, re-tiled bathroom with white suite, VERY LARGE GARAGE, garden/parking. EPC rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £ 142,500

BRIERLEY HILL, Planet Road

This RATHER LOVELY & BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Large Hall, Superb Sitting Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Well Appointed Shower Room with Seperate W.C, Garage & FANTASTIC GARDEN. EPC: D

£139,950

WOODSETTON, Flavell Street

A well presented, extended traditional semi-detached property situated in sought after area of Woodsetton. This good size family home benefits from entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen. THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £145,000...NOW £139,950

SWINDON, Winston Road

Nestled within the heart of sought after Swindon Village, close to friendly village shops and delightful canal side walks, this ATTRACTIVE MID MEWS offers WELL APPOINTED accommodation which includes TWO BEDROOMS. With LONG BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and an enclosed rear garden EPC D

New price £136,950

New

HOLLY HALL, Devon Crescent

This BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED & DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, TWO SPACIOUS RECEPTION ROOMS, Splendid Modern Kitchen, Three Family Bedrooms, Beautifully Re-Appointed Shower Room, Driveway & Established Garden. EPC:

£129,950

BROCKMOOR, Cressett Lane

This CONTEMPORARY & EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Attractive Lounge, SPLENDID MODERN BREAKFAST KITCHEN, TWO GENEROUS FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Beautifully Appointed White Suite Bathroom, Driveway & Lovely Garden. EPC C

£129,950

New

TIVIDALE , Speakers Close

This ideal starter home is situated in a cul-de-sac location, on the popular modern development of Speakers Close, Tividale. Being end of terrace and with TWO BEDROOMs it also boasts entrance porch, hallway, lounge-diner, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, central heating and double glazing, front and rear gardens with parking. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950

UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane

A fantastically presented traditional semi-detached property situated in the popular Upper Gornal area. It consists of entrance hall, well-appointed lounge, fitted kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear-garden with CABIN, centrally heated & double glazed, off-road parking. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £124,950

SEDGLEY, The Walk

LARGE EXTENSION AND TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! A gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and part UPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement in popular/convenient district. With a number of character features the accommodation includes entrance hall, through lounge (with patio doors), kitchen, lobby, separate toilet, store, further living/occasional bedroom with large shower/wet room ensuite. Three bedrooms, bathroom, drive, secluded rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in th region of £122,500

New

PENSNETT, Bryce Road

Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, This BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED & EXPENSIVELY FURNISHED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Spacious Lounge, STUNNING CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN with WOW FACTOR, Well Appointed Shower Room & Large Garden. EPC E

£109,950

UPPER GORNAL, Hill Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Fastidiously maintained, gas centrally heated (recent boiler) & double glazed traditional end terrace of character that has been 'transformed' in recent years with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS from the rear comprising; Lounge, recently refitted breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, slabbed patio and ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £107,500

New

PENSNETT, Chapel Street

This RATHER CHARMING & BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED, TWO BEDROOM, TERRACE PROPERTY comprises: Attractive Lounge with Feature Fireplace, Breakfast Kitchen, Two Generous First Floor Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom & Very Pleasant Garden. EPC: E

£104,950

COSELEY, Painters Croft

Tastefully presented modern intermediate situated in a popular development in Coseley. Benefiting from living room, kitchen-diner, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, parking to front, central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950

DUDLEY, Stourbridge Road

This DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM, 'VICTORIAN' STYLE, TERRACED HOME should appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS, BUY-TO-LET INVESTORS & FAMILIES and comprises: TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS & Pleasant Rear Garden. EPC: E

New price £99,950

New

DUDLEY, Soverign Heights, Attingham Drive

An extremely well presented FIRST FLOOR apartment situated on the SOVERIGN HEIGHTS development in Dudley. Benefiting from entrance hall and open-plan living room with kitchen, it also boasts fitted bathroom and TWO BEDROOM along with being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £79,950

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KINGSWINFORD, Oak Street

Enjoying its own private entrance and conveniently located within Kingswinford's highly sought after Old Quarter, this ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED FIRST FLOOR ONE BEDROOM FLAT offers a well appointed layout, plus a good sized pebble forecourt. EPC D

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SEDGLEY GOWER ROAD

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SEDGLEY GORGE ROAD

- Impressive Three Bedroom Detached Home
- Two Reception Rooms • Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Bathroom with Separate Bath & Shower Cubicle
- Central Heating, Double Glazing

£229,950

SEDGLEY BILSTON STREET

- Detached Three Bedroom Family Property
- Living Room plus Dining Room
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Off Road Parking to the Front and Rear

£192,500

SEDGLEY RICHMOND ROAD

- Detached Family Home •Corner Position
- Three Bedrooms • Living Room Plus Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen • Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking Plus Garage • Well Maintained

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SEDGELY ALDERDALE AVENUE

- Impressive FIVE Bedroom Detached Residence
- Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room
- Stylish Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom & Two Ensuite Shower Rooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Garage plus Ample Off Road Parking
- Private Rear Garden

£349,950

SEDGLEY GOSPEL END ROAD

- Detached Family Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom plus Ensuite
- Ample Off Road Parking plus Garage
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- Viewings are Highly Recommended

£338,000

UPPER GORNAL VALE STREET

- End-Terraced Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
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GORNAL
FLAVELLS LANE

Individual design luxury detached bungalow constructed to the highest specification in 2015. Ideally situated in a sought after residential area off the village centre and comprising-block paved frontage with reception hall off-lounge-fitted kitchen - two bedrooms-bathroom-private landscapedcourtyard style rear garden incorporating garden room directly off lounge-gasc/htg-double glazed-immaculate order thr'out.
OFFERS BASED ON: £199,950

MILKING BANK
SEDGEFIELD CLOSE

Detached property standing on a corner plot in a popular residential area. Porch-Reception, Hall-Cloakroom, Lounge-Formal Dining Room-Fitted Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms-en-suite to Master Bedroom, Bathroom-Double Garage-Private Gardens-Gas Central Heating.
OFFERS BASED ON: £237,500

GORNAL
LADBROOK GROVE

Semi-detatched Bungalow standing on a large plot with open rear aspects over grazing land. Situated in a popular residential area a short distance from the Village Centre. DOUBLE GLAZED-GAS C/HTG PORCH-RECEPTION HALL-LOUNGE-FITTED KITCHEN-TWO BEDROOMS-BATHROOM-GARAGE-LARGE LANDSCAPED GARDENS.
OFFERS BASED ON: £169,950

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A traditional five-bedroom detached house on elevated position has a high degree of privacy

An individual and traditional five-bedroomed detached house on the edge of town, Norton Stepe, 89 Greyhound Lane, Norton, Stourbridge. is in a highly regarded area.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £419,950.

It is well placed for town centre amenities including train and bus stations, schooling of good repute, surrounding countryside and access to the wider West Midlands

NORTON, STOURBRIDGE
£419,950

conurbation. The property stands elevated to the service road of Greyhound Lane and has a high degree of privacy.

It benefits from three reception rooms, a breakfast kitchen, five bedrooms and a long, landscaped rear garden.

The rear garden features a large paved patio and extensive mature gardens with borders comprising a variety of established plants and shrubs and deciduous trees.

To the front of the property is a fore garden and driveway leading to the garage with the additional of further parking on the opposite side of the service road.

Contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 396066 or visit www.leeshaw.com website.

Luxury two-bedroom apartment is located in an enviable setting within an exclusive development

In an enviable setting within the exclusive development of Westhill Court off Hagley Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, is a really lovely, well appointed, ground floor luxury two bedroom apartment with a host of features and quality fittings.

It is for sale through Taylors at £159,950.

With viewing strongly advised in order to fully appreciate just

OLDSWINFORD
£159,950

how much it has to offer, the gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation is seen to briefly comprise a security intercom controlled communal hall/foyer, apartments own reception hall, a large sitting room with a broad opening to the splendid 'shaker styled' dining kitchen, two good bedrooms with the master en-suite and a principle bathroom having a modern white suite.

It also comes with well managed communal gardens and grounds, with residents' allocated parking and visitor parking.

Contact the agents on 01384 395555 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk website.

Battling an explosion of slimy invaders

Wet summer weather has boosted slug populations even further, HANNAH STEPHENSON discovers. She talks to experts about how to deter these slimy pests

THE explosion in the slug population predicted by wildlife experts earlier this year has been painfully evident in my garden, as the slimy critters have munched their way through beds, borders and container plants.

Venturing out each morning and evening on my constitutional slug patrol, I have picked off at least 30 of these incessant pests per session but each time I look out during or after a downpour, there they are again, climbing walls, scaling even the most thin-stemmed clematis, stripping plants of flowers and foliage and leaving their slimy trail.

There are more than 30 types of slug in the UK, some 95 per cent of which are underground, nibbling on seeds and roots and laying 20-100 eggs multiple times every year.

It is believed that the average British garden contains over 20,000 slugs and snails. Slugs remain active in temperatures of 5C and above, consuming around 40 times their weight in the space of a day.

Warnings went out much earlier in the season predicting a slug population explosion, warning that young plants are particularly vulnerable to attack, but when slugs are on the rampage and in numbers as great as they have been this year due to the mild winter and wet summer, nothing is safe.

Maturity

Paul Hetherington, director of fundraising and communications at the charity BugLife, says: "All the anecdotal evidence points to the sheer numbers of slugs and snails this year.

"They are bigger because they have not spent time in a torpid state of hibernation, they are reaching maturity earlier because they haven't had these periods of rest when their body mass reduces, and they breed whenever they are active, not seasonally.

"When it's hot and dry they will hibernate, but because of the weather, we have seen 11 months of slug and snail activity in the UK, whereas it used to be around seven."

The changing weather patterns – mild, wet winters and wet summers – have boosted slug populations, but the situation has been exacerbated by the loss of natural predators including hedgehogs, thrushes, frogs, toads and ground beetles, which feed on slugs and help retain the balance of nature, he says.

There are plants which slugs don't like, including aquilegias, geraniums and foxgloves, which have high toxin levels.

"I've found that they prefer courgettes to pumpkins – on my allotment they've eaten all the courgettes and left the pumpkins," he says.

Deterrents include copper tape around plant pots, placing sharp sand or crushed eggshells around plants, or even building a pond or water feature which will attract toads, frogs and newts, all natural predators to the slug.

Some people recommend boiling up cloves of garlic, straining off the liquid and watering around plants with that. Other than that, it's a case of continuing with dawn and dusk patrols to pick the slugs off.

While many people opt for slug pellets, Hetherington claims that even so-called organic varieties may harm other wildlife.

Guy Barter, RHS chief horticultural adviser, says nematodes are probably the most eco-friendly solution. Parasitic nematodes occur naturally in the soil, but not enough to see off the sheer numbers of pests. They can be bought from online garden retailers. The organisms are mixed with water and then watered into the ground. Some specifically target slugs, infecting them with bacteria.

"They are an excellent idea because they have no effect on non-targeted organisms, are safe for the user and are organic. The only downside is that they are rather expensive," Barter says.

However, Hetherington points to research that has shown cases of certain nematodes crossing species, infecting bees as well, so would recommend using them only as a last resort.

If, during your slug patrols, you come across any leopard slugs – so-called for their distinctive markings – it might be better to leave them alone, as they are carnivorous and will eat other slugs.

You can grow aubergines under cover or outdoors in a sheltered spot

A taste of Mediterranean for greenhouse or patio

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Aubergines

THEY are a staple of the Mediterranean, in traditional vegetable dishes such as ratatouille or the Greek speciality, moussaka, but you can grow aubergines under cover or in the garden given warm, sheltered conditions.

Sow indoors in early spring, two seeds to a pot and pinch out the weaker of the two if both appear.

They need high temperatures and plenty of light to produce a good crop, so if you have a greenhouse, grow them in there and if not, keep them in a large pot in a sunny, sheltered pot on the patio, but don't put them out until June, when all danger of frost has passed.

Pinch out the growing tip when the plant is 30cm tall to encourage more flowering side-shoots to form.

Give them regular high potash liquid feeds and plenty of water when the fruits have set to boost your chances of success and support the main stems with canes. Plants grow to about 90cm (3ft) high outdoors and should yield up to 1.8kg (4lb) of fruit if you're lucky. Varieties worth trying include 'Black Enorma' and 'Moneymaker'.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Keep picking sweet peas to promote further blooms
2. Make earwig traps by filling a small plastic pot with dampened straw and placing it upside down on top of a cane at a similar height to the plants you want to protect
3. Lift and divide bearded irises
4. Keep deadheading bedding plants to keep displays looking their best
5. Remove the side buds of dahlias if you want bigger blooms
6. Plant autumn-flowering bulbs
7. Pick courgettes little and often, to stop them growing into large marrows
8. Protect carrots from carrot root fly by erecting a 60cm-tall fleece and cane fence around crops
9. Harvest damsons and plums
10. In the greenhouse, water and mist cuttings

Into the wild with tips for creating a meadow

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

"Hey, Babe, Take a walk on the wild side" – Lou Reed

THERE can be few finer sights than a meadow in full floriferous glory or a spectacle more redolent of the English landscape.

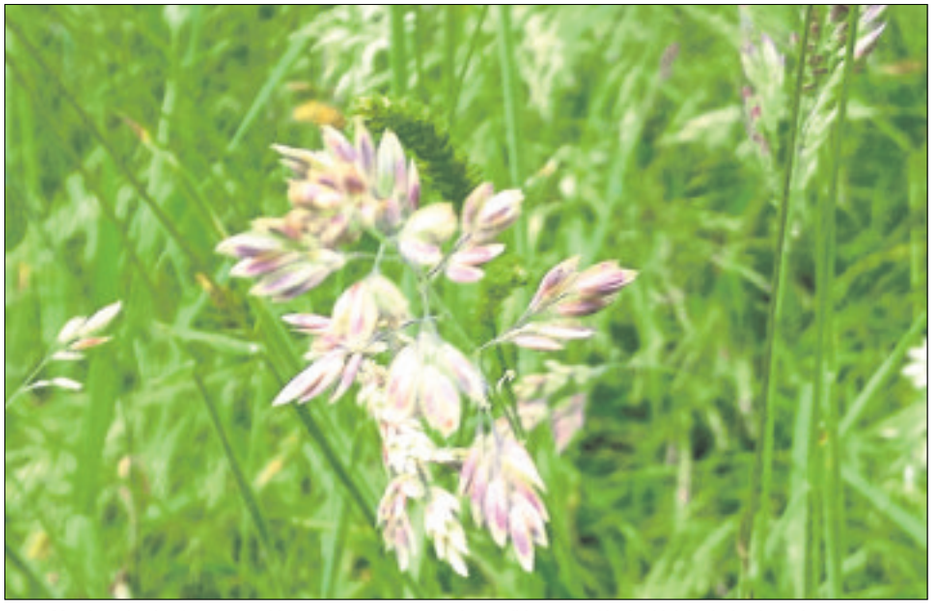
It is amazing to think of the transformation in thinking amongst gardeners over the past few years from attention and admiration of wild nature to trying to emulate or even embellish it in their own gardens.

True, many people still prefer the carefully crafted look of an herbaceous, mixed or shrub border but an area of true or 'cultivated' wildness can be just as much a display of the gardeners craft.

At some point in the dim and distant past the nature that surrounded us seemed to grow smaller and we brought what we considered the best bits into close proximity to our dwelling places with because they gave us sustenance or pleasure. As more of the landscape became husbanded true wild nature adapted to our techniques or was pushed to the uncultivated periphery. With greater mechanisation and urbanisation the most desirable or fashionable plants were brought directly from the wild into our gardens with by seed, cutting or wholesale pillaging. Mechanised farming and the unrestricted use of chemicals completed mans' dominance over the wilderness. This is why people are drawn to meadows and hedgerows perhaps we find ourselves catching a glimpse of something vanished or what we imagine has disappeared tinged with the honey tones of nostalgia. Ironically much good meadow planting can be seen along the roadside where the soil has been disturbed and poor soil has been piled at the sides to make verges.

Whatever the case meadow gardening is not for the impatient gardener. Much of our richest flora grows on poor shallow soil which unless you have it has to be created by stripping away the richer topsoil down to the subsoil. For those without the means or nerve to contemplate such a drastic step then the nutrient content has to be reduced over time. The key factor is to start with a weed free area and then either sow an annual or permanent seed mix. Nettles and docks can be a problem on heavy soil and will need to be sprayed off or weeded out by hand.

The first year will see astonishing growth including pioneer species such as oxe-eye daisies which will gradually give way to a more stable mix over time. The grass species will settle down over time to a finer mix including common bent, crested dog tail and red Fescue. Yellow rattle (Rhinanthus major) will help weaken any invasive grasses and a mowing regime which starts with a July cut followed by close mowing will help keep on top of more vigorous species and reduce the fertility.



Meadow planting features a wide range of grasses, creating a wilder, natural look which harks back to a bygone era

Geranium pratense can be grown as plugs and planted out

Oxe-eye daisies will be among the first to appear

A few years need to go buy before introducing bulbs and perennials such as greater knapweed or Geranium pratense which can be grown as plugs and planted into ground or scattered as seed with fingers crossed.

Aesthetically when a meadow is brought into a garden it looks best in a semi agricultural setting such as an orchard where a froth of cow parsley beneath a flowering apple tree will make a jaw dropping sight.

Otherwise contrast the wildness with structural elements sick as clipped hedges or topiary. If you are lucky enough to have the sort of soil that meadow flowers prefer then simply get out the deck chair, sit back and listen to the garden birds and bees humming the tune..... "Doo do doo do doo do do doo..."

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Customers rave about MG GS

It's a month since the MG GS launched in the UK and the newest addition to MG Motor UK's line-up is already causing quite a stir.

In one month, MG has registered over 70 MG GSs and customers up and down the country have been out and about enjoying their new cars. Regional tests drive events have also been taking place. People that currently own competitor brands are finding that the MG GS is proving to be a better value option and, in many cases, a much better drive and more specification for the price.

To mark one month, MG spoke to a few of the new owners of the MG GS. Adam Sloman, general manager of the MG Car Club and pictured above, has just bought an MG GS Excite in 'Sunset Orange' for him and his family to enjoy.

"Being a long-standing fan of MG, I've owned loads of different MGs over the years, from a Maestro to a Midget – but the idea of having an MG that I could get all the family in was a real attraction. We needed a car that was a little bigger, particularly as the kids are getting older. My wife absolutely loves driving it, particularly on the school run as it stands out amongst the other cars. I'm hoping she'll let me have a drive soon! We could have gone for an older MG that is bigger than a two-seater sports car, but there are so many great modern features in the MG GS. Plus, the kids love connecting their phones and listening to their playlists!"

Paul Pickering, a loyal customer of MG for 12 years, became the first customer to collect an MG GS only five years after securing the first MG6. Paul purchased his MG GS from Summit Garage in Dudley. Paul said: "It was great to find out that I was the first owner! My wife and I have chosen the MG GS not just because it's a great looking car, but because it's an automatic – it makes things so much easier for us as we get older. It's also got stacks of space, which means we now have a car that can handle all the luggage for trips away."

The MG GS range starts from £14,995 and is available with a number of great offers, including :

- A five year or 80,000 mile (which occurs first) manufacturer parts and labour warranty
- 0% APR representative finance. This is available up to five years with a minimum 20% deposit
- An £850 deposit contribution on all MG GS models

If you want to find out more about the newest SUV on the market, visit www.mg.co.uk/gs

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Facelifted Volvo V40 ticks all the boxes

By Ian Donaldson

IMAGINE the product planning team at Volvo HQ in Sweden when the best-selling V40 range came up for discussion.

Introduced in 2012, it had been on sale long enough for a mid-term facelift – the sort of modest budget update that keeps the car on a potential purchaser's radar.

You could make an industry-wide tick list, such is the degree of similarity among the carmakers of the world. It might go like this for the Volvo:

- New lights and radiator grille (biggest visual change without messing about expensively with the bodywork). TICK.
- New paint colours (five of them; four of those different blues). TICK.
- New designs of alloy wheel. Eight of those. TICK.
- New interior trim (with the choice of a woven look from a motor show one-off). TICK.
- New level of connectivity (allowing your mobile phone to talk to the car). TICK.

Volvo then deviated a bit from the updating bible with a simplified and newly names series of trim levels, introduced a new petrol engine to the V40 Cross Country range and fettled the already low emissions diesel Drive-E engine.

That now produces a fine 89g/km – down from 94g/km – and qualifies for more modest company car tax (18 per cent).

Comfortably more than one in three of all the new Volvos sold in the UK has a V40 badge, so its continuing success is vital to the company's bottom line.

Sales

So the fact that by far the biggest slice of V40 sales go not to the cheapest grade (now called Momentum) or the next up the line (Inscription) but to the trim level called R-Design, which brings a bit of a butch look with different grille, twin exhaust pipes and cosmetic rear diffuser (very F1), along with 17ins alloys, sporty seats, wheel, pedals and floor mats (!), along with an illuminated gear knob.

The R-Design cars will take an estimated 42 per cent of sales and start at £22,345 for a T2 petrol engine (1969cc and 120bhp) although the most popular power unit across the entire V40 range is going to be the D2 diesel, that appeals in spades to company car uses (thank its ultra low 89g/km emissions for that).

Second biggest seller will be entry-level Momentum cars, starting at £20,255 with the T2 petrol engine on board, but at a predicted 16 per cent of sales, they will be a long way behind their dearer R-Design siblings.

Volvo and safety go together like egg and chips and for years the V40 was the safest car ever rated by the European crash test group.

Volvo gives a little smile when it says it now ranks only second – to another Volvo (the newer and much bigger XC90).

Safety

So this latest V40 continues to come as standard with brakes that put themselves on at up to 31mph if the driver ignores a potential crash ahead and the world's first pedestrian airbag, that explodes from the rear of the bonnet to cushion the blow in an accident.

The latest V40 has updates to its Volvo On Call system that makes it compatible with Windows 10 and lets smartphone users remotely lock and unlock the doors, find the car on a map (or supermarket car park) and flash the lights and sound the horn – yes, that's my car over there.

Out in a new Momentum grade V40 with the D2 diesel engine, just dropping into the car back instantly the feel of a modern Volvo; from firm and shapely contours of the seats to no-nonsense graphics on the instrument panel and a solidly sensible approach to the business of getting about in comfort and safety.

The on-paper performance of this D2 1969cc 118bhp diesel (118mph and 0- 62mph in 10.5 seconds) looks modest but the car pulls cleanly and quietly from almost any speed and would gobble up motorway miles.

As ever, the official fuel consumption figure is highly optimistic (better than 84mpg) but the 52.9mpg recorded on the test drive was probably a bit on the pessimistic side.

Not bad anyway and combined with that low, low emissions count promising a wallet friendly time for its probable business user driver.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) – 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) – 76.3 (3.7), CO_2 Emissions 231 – 84 g/km.
Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers available until 30th September 2016. Offers are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

New Black Edition SV for Nissan Qashqai

Nissan is introducing the stylish new 'Black Edition' to the Qashqai line-up. A new flagship specification for the range, the Black Edition is the first special version of Qashqai available since the model was launched in 2013. Offered in a limited production run, the Black Edition is on sale now and priced from £27,310 on-the-road.

Based on the generously equipped Tekna grade, Black Edition enhancements include 19" Black Ibiscus alloy wheels, Pearl Black metallic paint, front and rear styling plates and 'Black Edition' badged door entry guards.

The model also gains the sleek Panoramic Roof with one-touch shade, making it the only Qashqai with a glass roof as standard – typically a £400 option on Tekna models.

Nissan's suite of advanced safety and driver assist systems – collectively known as Nissan Safety Shield – are included on the car as standard. These include lane departure warning, high beam assist, traffic sign recognition, forward emergency braking, blind spot warning, moving object detection and driver attention alert.

Additional specification includes full black leather upholstery, intelligent park assist, bi-LED headlights and the state-of-the-art NissanConnect infotainment system. Based around an integrated seven-inch high-resolution touchscreen, it includes DAB digital radio and satellite navigation. Nissan's pioneering 360º Around View Monitor – to help with low-speed manoeuvres – is also fitted as standard.

The Qashqai Black Edition is powered by the frugal yet refined dCi 110 6-speed manual 2WD, which delivers 70.6mpg combined fuel economy and CO2 emissions of just 103g/km.

Kieran McMenamin, section manager for Qashqai at Nissan Motors GB Ltd., commented: "Top-grade Tekna versions represent around one in three Qashqai purchases and recent reveals like the Qashqai Premium Concept identify a desire and demand for Qashqai to extend towards the higher end of the segment.

"As a new flagship for the range, the Black Edition is the definitive statement for Qashqai – luxury styling and generous specification but maintaining an accessible price point. In fact, at just £450 more than the equivalent Tekna, the model represents around £1200 in savings compared with individual Option prices on Tekna models."

The multi-award-winning Qashqai's impressive quality, styling and innovative technologies continue to make it the best-selling crossover in Europe. Since production began in 2013, a new Qashqai has been built every 62 seconds, or 58 per hour, at the plant in Sunderland, UK. In September 2015 the Nissan Qashqai became the fastest ever UK-built vehicle to smash the half million production mark.

To find out more visit www.nissan.co.uk

World first with three electrified powertrains

By James Parker

Hyundai Motor UK has announced the pricing and specification of IONIQ, the world's first car to offer three electrified powertrains. IONIQ will go on sale in the UK in October.

Prices will start from £19,995 for the IONIQ Hybrid SE 1.6 GDi, which includes standard features such as 15" alloy wheels, DAB with Bluetooth, Cruise Control and Rear Parking Sensors with Rear View Camera. Standard safety features include Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB), Lane Keep Assist System (LKAS) and individual Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS).

IONIQ Hybrid Premium 1.6 GDi, from £21,795, provides additional equipment over the SE, including keyless entry with push button start, heated front seats, heated steering wheel, Bi-Xenon headlamps with LED rear combination lamps and a driver's supervision instrument cluster with 7" LCD display.

Integrated satellite navigation with TomTom Live services, an Infinity audio system with Android Auto / Apple CarPlay and Wireless Phone Charging (where supported) also feature as standard.

From £23,595, IONIQ Hybrid Premium SE 1.6 GDi models benefit from enhanced comfort equipment such as leather seats with heated/ventilated front seats and heated outer rear seats, heated leather steering wheel and a driver power seat with Integrated Memory System. Blind Spot Detection with Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Front Parking Assist and optional 17" alloy wheels round off this range topping trim.

Colours

IONIQ Hybrid is available in seven different exterior colours; Phantom Black, Polar White, Platinum Silver, Iron Grey, Demitasse Brown, Marina Blue and Phoenix Orange. The lava stone interior trim features blue accents throughout the cabin and control surfaces.

IONIQ Electric prices start from £28,995 for the Premium specification, mirroring Hybrid Premium, with specific equipment including Automatic Windscreen Wipers with Rain Sensor, 16" alloy wheels, LED headlamps and rear combination lamps and Advanced Smart Cruise Control. Integrated satellite navigation is standard across the IONIQ Electric range.

IONIQ Electric Premium SE, available from £30,795 again mirrors Hybrid Premium SE specification, with standard equipment such as leather seats with heated/ventilated front and heated rear seats, heated leather steering wheel and a driver power seat with Integrated Memory System, Blind Spot Detection, front Parking Sensors and EV specific 16" alloy wheels.

IONIQ Electric is expected to receive eligibility for the Plug-in Car Grant, enabling customers to potentially receive a £4,500 grant towards the purchase of the vehicle.

All IONIQ Electric feature standard rapid charge compatibility, ensuring an 80 per cent charge capability in just 33 minutes from a 50kW CCS Combo Rapid public charger, whilst a standard ICCB Charging Cable will allow charging from a domestic three pin supply. IONIQ Electric also features adjustable regenerative braking, via steering column mounted paddles, maximising driver engagement and enhancing efficiency.

Network

IONIQ Hybrid will be available across the Hyundai dealership network from October 13, with IONIQ Electric initially available from a selected network of 27 dealerships, with full network rollout from 2017.

All IONIQ models come with Hyundai's industry-leading 5 Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package, with the additional high voltage battery cover of 8 years / 125,000 miles.

IONIQ Plug-In Hybrid 1.6 GDi prices and specifications will be announced prior to the on sale date in 2017.

Tony Whitehorn, President and CEO Hyundai Motor UK said: "The all-new Hyundai IONIQ is the world's first car offering three electrified powertrains and it will make low- to zero-emission mobility more accessible to more people. Hyundai's innovative approach delivers an uncompromising design and driving experience, the latest connectivity and safety features with an enhanced industry-leading warranty-package.

"It is also an important milestone in our sustainability strategy, bringing innovative technologies to the market and extending the company's product range of low-to-zero emission vehicles, which already includes the world's first mass-produced fuel-cell electric vehicle, the ix35 Fuel Cell."

Hyundai Motor UK has also announced that POD Point will be the preferred charging partner for customer domestic charge point installations, as well as points across the Hyundai UK dealer network and Hyundai Motor UK facilities.

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Personal Contract Purchase finance example:

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Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification shown not available on all models, specification varies across the range and is subject to change without notice. Available between 01.07.16 – 30.09.16 inclusive. £1,000 including VAT saving available for the purchase of a new Kia between 01.07.16 – 30.09.16. Offer subject to taking a test drive. Private customer registrations only, excluding Personal Contract Hire. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Kia Finance RH1 1SR. Specification is subject to change without notice. Offers not available with any other offer. Offers not available in the Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Retail sales only. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk.

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WOLVERHAMPTON TREE SERVICE

Trees felled, hedges trimmed, stumps removed, tree reports. Fully insured.

Arboricultural Association & Council Approved.

01902 892652
www.wolvestrees.co.uk
E: treebloke@aol.com

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Increase confidence and improve skills with a qualified,experienced specialist Maths teacher.
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New Curriculum incorporated.
Numeracy prep for professional entrance assessments.
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FLAT ROOFING SPECIALISTS

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Same day delivery faster than
A phone call!!!
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To advertise your business and reach more than 53,000 potential customers...

1. Call us on... 01902 319641
2. E-mail us at... martin.cartwright@expressandstar.co.uk
3. Post to... Martin Cartwright , Dudley Chronicle, 51-53 Queen St, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

GET A FAST RESPONSE
ADVERTISE

Local newspapers and websites offer the most effective combination for driving consumer action. Readers are more than twice as likely to act upon local advertisements than those on TV and social media

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

funeral directors

J.R. JONES
Lower Gornal 01902 880040

DAINTY & DOWNING
Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
www.nedowning.co.uk

lost & found

LOST— Queen Elizabeth cap. Sentimental value. 01902 689752.

1 Family

education & tuition

NEW TUITION CENTRE ENROLLING NOW at Royal Wolverhampton School Key stage 1 & 2, GCSEs, 11+ / grammar school entry, A levels Fully qualified, experienced teachers. **07808 934374 gurpritss@hotmail.com**

elderly & disabled

Capitol Mobility-Bilston
ARE YOU ON DLA OR PIP'S!
YOU COULD HAVE A SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR ON WEEKLY TERMS!
01902 409929
www.capitolmobility.co.uk

CELEBRITY ELECTRIC riser recliner chair, 10 months old, 4 years warranty, as new, cost £1,100, £400 ono. 01902 788752.

MOBILITY SCOOTER PRIDE COLT EXECUTIVE Front and rear suspension, smooth ride, solid tyres with alloys, full lighting package, looks and works great. Can be delivered. **£425 only. Telephone 07836 279198.**

MOBILITY SCOOTER Excellent condition. Four wheels. Fits easily in a car boot. Ideal for shopping, days out and holidays. Can deliver. **£250. 07905 770683.**

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

bikes

THORN CLUB tour 533S, 21 1/2 inch, manual bicycle, metallic blue, £700. 01902 674442.

car boot sales

CAR BOOT SALES!
Every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday
Every Sunday
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane, Lichfield, WS14 0BE
Booters £4
6.00am-2pm
07538 842842

COL'S CAR BOOT & MARKET
OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
at Himley Bypass, B4176
Ring Colin: 07973 904585
www.colscarboot.co.uk
OPEN ALL YEAR

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sundays from 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449, DY6 0AA. 07710 644908. www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW Caravans 35x12 DG & CH from £15,000. 11 month holiday season. 01584823433. www.bcpark.co.uk

ACE PRESTIGE 4 berth. 2004, end bathroom, seperate shower/toilet, sunroof, blow heating, all mod cons, fully equipped with awning and extras, immaculate condition, **£3,800. 01299 251018.**

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

CARAVAN for sale in North Wales. Fees paid for 2016 season. Quick sale. Mint condition. 07590 124226.

CARAVANS FOR SALE from £1,500 to £15,000. Something for everyone Severnvalleyleisure.com S'Bridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

KAMPA RALEIGH PRO plus awning, excellent condition with ground sheet £150. 07790 841177 or 01384 863305.

OUTDOOR REVOLUTION Oxygen 3, Air awning, 2014. Used twice in excellent condition. Cost £840 will accept £400ono. Cannock 01543 324013.

STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 10 6-berth with decking, Mid Wales. Site fees paid for 2016. Dog friendly. **£4,250 ono. 07922 351352 No texts**

TUDOR AMBASSADOR Static caravan with decking area. 1994 model located at Hampton Loade. 35ft x 12ft 2 bed. Residential site open all year. **£15,000 ono Call David 07514 505818.**

WILLBERBY STATIC Holiday home in rural Mid Wales. Superb condition. Lounge/diner, kitchen, 2 bed, shower, toilet, on small owner only park. Ideal mature couple. Fees paid to April 2017. **£6,950. Telephone 01591 610625.**

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07776373150

CARAVAN WANTED Cash on pick up asap. Caravan wanted. Call me on 07717090817

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN for you and achieve the best possible price. Seven Valley Leisure, Stourbridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything considered. New or Old 01902 754011 or 07931 568716

music shop

RECORDS/CDS WANTED & SOLD Cash paid.Vinyl Shop,5a Cleveland Street, WV1 3HL. 07760 168972.

STEVE REINER Classical guitar with hard case, great quality, excellent condition. £700 ono. 07802 620770 / 01902 661435.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at **bookanad. expressandstar.co.uk**

TREADMILL Pro-Fitness. Electric. Was £200 new. 2 yrs old. Rare use. £100 ono. Must dismantle & collect. Stourbridge. 01384 371505.

holidays

self catering holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET On 4* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. Last minute school holidays £350pw ! October £140 pw ! 07974 226 928.

mind, body & soul

massage

TRADITIONAL CHINESE Massage 'Hot Stones'. 01902 903659, 07741 696099. Compton WV6 8AF

what's on

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 18th May
07957 399964

summer fayre

UPPER ETTINGSHALL METHODIST CHURCH Coseley
Black Country Rainbow Fayre.
Friday, July 22, at 6.30pm.

3 Home & Services

carpets & furnishings

NEUTRAL WOOL Carpet plus quality underlay. Immaculate 3m x 3m. 3m x 3.4m. £50. 01902 896913.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

DXR8TE RADIO receiver, as new, still with receipt, £400 ono. 01384 211920.

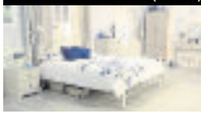
TENT, large, 6 berth, top quality, never used, new, £145. Large roof box, £75. 01902 341611.

furniture

WHILE STOCKS LAST... WHILE STOCKS LAST... WHILE STOCKS LAST...
STOCK LIQUIDATION
£2,000,000 OF BRAND NEW PERFECT STOCK MUST BE CLEARED
DIRECT FROM MAJOR RETAIL GROUP
UP TO 70% OFF RRP!
HURRY...AT THESE PRICES THEY WON'T BE IN STOCK FOR LONG! WHEN THEY'VE GONE, THEY'VE GONE!

FRENCH GREY SATIN MIST BEDROOM RANGE FANTASTIC QUALITY SELF CLOSE DRAWERS, FLAT PACK TO GO OR ASSEMBLED (extra cost)

PROVENCE OAK BEDROOM RANGE WITH SOLID & DOVETAILED DRAWERS ELEGANT & FULLY ASSEMBLED TO GRACE ANY BEDROOM



CHEVAL MIRROR RRP £149 NOW £59
2 DRAW BEDSIDE RRP £85 NOW £29
DRESSING STOOL RRP £85 NOW £29
4+3 LARGE CHEST RRP £299 NOW £109
4 DRAWER WIDE CHEST RRP £179 NOW £79
2 DOOR WARDROBE RRP £329 NOW £129
DRESS TABLE & MIRROR RRP £199 NOW £89
ALL ITEMS ALSO AVAILABLE IN CREAM SATIN
2 DRAWER BEDSIDE RRP £159 NOW £69
5 DRAWER NARROW CHEST RRP £649 NOW £159
OAK FINISH DRESSING TABLE RRP £349 NOW £149
2 DOOR DOUBLE WARDROBE RRP £559 NOW £249
CHEVAL DRESSING MIRROR RRP £189 NOW £79
LARGE BLANKET CHEST RRP £529 NOW £189
PLUS LOTS MORE ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION - COME & SEE FOR YOURSELF !!

BFC FACTORY OUTLET CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF, OFF A461
2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
VISA 0121 557 6885 Maestro

CIRCULAR 1.1M solid oak kitchen table (extendible 1.4m), £80. Four dining chairs, very good condition, wood, £100. 01299 823321.

SOFA two matching chairs, M&S, immaculate, neutral colour. £250. 01902 896913.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins • WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY • Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings • ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

in your garden

A ABSOLUTE beautiful cultivated lawn turf, grown locally, next day delivery from £1.50 per roll. 01902 453794 / 0844 3350820.

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/Fit. Free Quotes: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU.01902 723910

HUGE STOCKS of new 6x5 close-board panels £12.50+vat. Delivery. Codsall Stone, 01902 842216.

kitchens & bathrooms

KITCHEN COMPLETE, MEDIUM oak units New extractor existing cooker, hob, sink unit £295 ono 01902 754358

photography & camcorders

CANON 70D SLR Camera, Immaculate. 90-300mm lens. Monopod. With many accessories / software/ leads. £595. o.n.o. 07855 103494.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

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1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
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THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
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WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
Call: 01902 885985
ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

CLEAR VISION AERIALS. Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV. Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

domestic cleaning

CLEAN (midlands ltd) FOR YOU
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
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PORTWAY FENCING

IT WORKS FOR ME
"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

A BARGAIN AT BUSHBURY FENCING/GATES LTD. Supply/fit. WV10 9QQ. Call 07816 863810.

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
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Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers
- Cookers
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- Landlord Certificates
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Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
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handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

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I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.
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LOCK AND CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, slabbing and roofing 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
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Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held
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oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING, Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

OVENBLITZ MIDLANDS Affordable oven cleaning specialists. See website or call 0800 773 4870.

painters / decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
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A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painter & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
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www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience,City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07890 879 892 01902 650716.

INTERIOR PAINTER AND DECORATOR Friendly and reliable, clean and tidy.Call Deb 01384 829473 / 07502 396385

WASP NESTS DESTROYED £50. Bed bugs, all insect pests. Telephone John on 01902 712244.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

DOMESTIC PLASTERING
rendering & small building work undertaken. 40 years experience. For a free quote
Call Roy
07887 495726
07583 643932

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. For All Your Home and Garden Improvements. Over 30 Years Experience. Call Mark or Sara on 07741 770897.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates,
FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 459809/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL Single Items/Full loads from £20. OAP discount. Andy 07512 395370, Keith 07545 618231.

MR BEE REMOVALS
FROM £20 P/H
MEN WITH VANS FOR REMOVALS.
SINGLE ITEMS, HOUSES, FLATS, OFFICES & CLEARANCE.
(FULLY INSURED)
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07776 911 411
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www.mrbeeremovals.com

plumbing & heating

CENTRA HEAT
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in August. *T&C apply*
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BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CENTRA HEAT

IT WORKS FOR ME

We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us.

Martin - Centra Heat

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
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Brought to you by Express & Star

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

K NASH & SON CH, combi boiler & 6 rads £2200. 7 year warranty available 01902 790327/07973 721206.

plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

roofing

ROOFING
main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-8pm. 01902 722447.

Arrow Roofing & Guttering
Pitched roofing & lead work. Flat roofing, rubber & felt. All repointing.
Free quotes. 01902 820996

S&F ROOFING & GUTTERING
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
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0121 517 1111

Champion Skip Hire
West Birmingham and Black Country Skip Hire
Call us today on 0121 291 2096
Cheap as skips

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

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AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
Also available mini digger with driver
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01902 405745
07719 671845

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

IT WORKS FOR ME

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

upholstery

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

WEBLEY AND SCOTT
bolt action shot gun, 4.10.
Offers
Box Number P20443, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

pets corner

AMERICAN COCKER Spaniel pup, 11wks, KC reg, health checked, vaccinated, chipped, wormed, male,black, white chest markings. £650. 07974 749908.

FERRETS Gills and Hobs, only £4 each.
07768 899924.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

JACK RUSSELL puppies, microchipped, vet checked, injections. £260. 01384 233910.

MABEL
14 year old loving tabby female cat, looking for a new home, suit retired persons or someone living alone.
07847 360784.

MARINE FISH TANK
full set up and stand, everything you ever wanted, no fish, 2 years old, cost £2,600.
Offers.
Telephone 01384 639160.

TOY POODLE X Shih Tzu puppies, (Shihpoo's)2 girls £550 each 2 boys £500 each, 07734 208600.

YORKIE PUPS two boys, £350 each one girl £375, ready now. Puppy pack included. 07710 555932.

6 X 3FT AVIARY PANELS, all as new, unused, £19.50 each. Possible delivery. 07904 938864.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business services

Take Control in YOUR Life
Not Earning enough, No Freedom, Health suffering?
Improve them all - Become your own Boss.
Home-Event. Dudley, DY12NW Sunday 4pm. Cath: 07807841129

commercial premises sale / let

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

EVERY TIME!
WE PAY 100% of purchase price
We buy any house
FAMILY BUSINESS
FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
WE ALSO BUY LAND
30 yrs
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Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
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Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

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We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
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A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

accommodation to let

A 2/3 BED PROPERTY Wednesfield. 3 Bed Whitmoreans. 1 Bed Finchfield. DSS ok. 01902 686605.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BRIDGNORTH 2 bed furnished flat with parking, Kings Lyade area £550pcm. 07530 401557.

CASTLECROFT, WV3. Clean 1 bed flat, new kitchen, CH, DG. £105pw. 01902 340073 or 07770 660636.

COUNTRY FLAT 1-bed nr Penkridge furnished. No Smoking-Pets, £425. pcm. 07808 640512. From Aug 1st

HIGH QUALITY Furnished studio flat,Tettenhall area. No DSS 07976263435 / 01902 700 028.

PROFESSIONAL ROOM lets, from £75pw, inc bills.
House Mates 07974 421715.

SELF CONTAINED flatlet, Lower Gornal, own amenities, recent refurbish, suit single mature person. Call 07715 603357.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

mobile homes

FOR SALE 2 BED PARK HOME
At Homeland Park, Ball Lane, Coven Heath, Nr. Wolverhampton, WV10 7EZ.
Price reduced for a quick sale.
Details 07983 431475.

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE
Harrows mobile home park, well cared for gardens, also well maintained unit, including shed and green house, also has its own car parking space, situated on a good bus route.
Price region, £70,000
For more details ring 01902 798548.

7 Jobs

drivers

EXPERIENCED MULTI DROP VAN DELIVERY DRIVER Age 30 years plus. Excellent knowledge of B & DY postcodes required Salary: £17,500 Reliable, disciplined & trustworthy applicants required Closing date 20 August 2016
Box Number P20442 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

engineering

CNC MILLER (DAYS) AND TOOL MAKER (DAYS)
to produce all types of mould tools. Knowledge of Plastic Injection Moulding is preferred.HEIDENHAIN control essential and power mill advantageous
Also INJECTION MOULD TOOL DESIGNER,
is sought to join existing design team.Role would require DFM feasibility from concept CAD right through to complete 2D & 3D tool design. Use of Delcam Powershape would be advantageous but not essential. Good rates of pay and working conditions.
FOR CNC MILLER AND TOOLMAKER apply for these positions by e mail enclosing CV to: Dave.parr@petfordtools.co.uk
For INJECTION MOULD TOOL DESIGNER please email Ian.foy@petfordtools.co.uk

SITE OPERATIVE
Required for pipeline maintenance work to include emergency repairs.
Working in various outdoor environments as part of a team
Full training will be provided to suitable applicant.
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
Experienced in pipe work and/or fabrication would be an advantage
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Email: sales@pressleakage.com

finance & accounting

PART TIME BOOKKEEPER REQUIRED
LCV Bodies Limited Based in Tipton
Excellent bookkeeping skills are required would need to be Proficient with Sage Accounts and Payroll and possess Strong numeracy skills.
For more information please call Bob Lawton on 07725 846465

nursing & carers

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
required for physically disabled gentleman (Dudley area) to assist with preparing meals, some limited personal care, support attending medical appointments and recreational activities. Assistance with daily physiotherapy programme. Four hours daily, weekdays. Previous experience desirable. Car driver/owner essential. Pay £10.00 ph + expenses.
Email: constitutionalist44@gmail.com or call 07960 357153.

warehouse & distribution

WAREHOUSE/DRIVER PERSON
Working in the steel industry. Suit mature person. Cradley area. Ring 07764 721068 No agencies.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW M-SPORT 320D
2006, metallic black, suede/cloth interior, coded bumpers/grill, 18ins alloys, MoT October, tinted windows, 129k, fantastic condition, fsh.
£4,300 ono.
Telephone 07871 876646.

SELLING YOUR CAR?
We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

FORD FIESTA, 12 plate, 1.2 petrol, silver, 12 months MoT, e/w, pas. Great condition and very economical to run. £3,300 ono.
07754 557861.

FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC (09) 2009, 3dr, SH, 26,000 miles, metallic red, colour coded interior, 12 months MoT, 2 keys, any trial, very clean and genuine car.
£5,250.
Contact David 07503 000940.

FORD FIESTA 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2007, 12 months MoT, 34,000 miles, excellent condition. £2,150 ono. 07973 152480.

FORD FOCUS CONVERTIBLE
Immaculate Condition, black, Electric roof, 2009, FSH, 2 Litre Diesel, Alarm, Long MOT, Isofix Detachable tow bar, Goodyear tyres, mudflaps,parking sensors
£3,250 ono
07711 048123

KIA RIO 1.5 diesel, 58 reg, black, good condition, low miles, £30 tax, AC, EW, very economicle. £2,750 ono. 01562 755739.

MICRO CAR M8 2013 reg, 2 seater, red and white, 4,500 miles, 3 years old last March. £5,000 ono.
01384 835919.

NISSAN XTRAIL 2.2 SVE, 53 reg, diesel, top of the range, MoT February 17, £1,900.
07415 189836.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2TCE 16V DYNAMIQUE S
3 door, 2008, 51,000 miles, silver, MoT until June 2017. New Cambelt at 45,677 miles, part leather interior, very good condition. **£2,125 ono.**
07792 165767.

TOYOTA AVENSIS
2007, 59,000 miles, black, fsh, long MoT, diesel. All luxury refinements.
£3,750.
07970 212476.

full time - general

alternative care
OFFICE ASSISTANT
Full time
£7.20 per hour
For Rowley Regis Domiciliary Care Provider
The role is to support a small management team by helping to maintain client files and the client and worker database, together with other general office duties
For an application form contact Alternative Care on 0121 561 4072

VAUXHALL ASTRA Convertible 1.8 Exclusive. 2005. In grey with black half leather seats. 86k, FSH, 2 keys. £1,850. 07831 609261.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Estate 1.6, 2008, 71,000 miles, MoT until March 2016, very good condition, £2,300. 07966 745797.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4SE, 2012, 26,000 miles, blue, 5 door, air con, fsh, long MoT, cruise control, alloys, £5,250 ono. 07817 970364.

VW GOLF
1.4, 2001 in silver, 76,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, new cam belt, water pump, breaks, coilovers, Audi TT wheels, excellent condition.
£1,650 ovno.
01902 306544 /07814 336980.

YAMAHA MT125 ABS, 2015, excellent condition, 2,400 miles, race blu, FSH, screen/tank bag. £2,950. 07810 870538. Kingswinford.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

DAEWOO MATIZ 2005, 5dr, 33,000 miles, 9 months MoT, silver, 2 lady owners, very good condition, £600. Tettenhall 07974 311116.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2, 52,000 miles, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, new MoT. Very good condition. 4 new tyres, 5-dr. £695. o.n.o. 07754 557861.

FORD FIESTA 1.25, Style, silver, alloy wheels, two lady owners, excellent condition. Economical. £1,400. 07739 420749.

FORD KA SPORT 1.6SE
2008, blue, 3 door, MoT February 2017, 49,000 miles, 2 tone leather upholstery, fsh, 2 owners, a/c, stereo.
£1,150.
01562 883891 (Hagley).

HONDA CIVIC 1.4 MAX, 02 reg, MoT April 2017, 107,446 miles, £500 ono.
Telephone 01902 458858.

MAZDA MX5
1996, 98,000 miles, reg P515RUV, British Racing Green MoT Sep, on sorn, garaged.
£500 ono.
01384 823828.
or text 07794 693587.

MAZDA MX5, 1999, 98,000 miles, blue, 1.6L, abs, air bag, MoT, alloys, CD, soft top, service history, 2 owners, £700 ono.
01384 232586.

RELIABLE CAR

NISSAN MICRA
2002, 45,000 miles, metallic blue, air bag, fsh, 12 months MoT, metallic paint, central locking, sunroof, stereo, CD, regularly serviced.
£750.
07967 411425.

PEUGEOT 206. Silver (51 reg), 58,900 miles. Good condition. Full MoT. £800. o.n.o. 07889 953043

PEUGEOT 206 VERVE, 2003 (52), 5Dr, 1124cc, silver, MoT 7.4.17, only 73k, EW, CL, CD, PAS, good condition, £675. 07977 458066.

PEUGEOT 208 1.4cc Sports. 2005, 2dr, silver, Mot, alloys CD. Good condition.£425. 07842 792847.

RENAULT CLIO DCI, 2004,100,000 miles, blue, electric windows, alarm, MoT, central locking, sunroof, CD, private reg, £750 ono. 07478 712913.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 2001, 74,000 miles, Silver, electric windows, MOT Nov. Reliable clean car. £500 ono 07843306447.

RENAULT GRANDE Scenic, 7 seater, 2005, silver, 60,000 miles, fully serviced Dec 2015, MoT Dec 2016. £699 ono. 01902 256280.

SEAT IBIZA 53 plate, silver, 40,000 miles, FSH, MoT Feb 2017, one owner from new, £1,250.
07956 688552.

TOYOTA YARIS 1.3VVT1
2004, 41,584 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, Stereo,
£1,495.
01902 843902

VAUXHALL ASTRA, 1992, 61,000 miles, maroon, alarm, long MoT, golden oldie! Clean and tidy. Perfect first car. £475.
07743 445439.

VAUXHALL ASTRA California, L reg, 60,000 miles, many new parts, 12 months MoT, £200 ono. 07865 290473.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2001, green, 98k miles, PAS, CD, CL, long MoT, clean car, drvies great, £650 o.n.o. 07956 882868.

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 TDi
2004, 80,000 miles, spares or repair, many new parts, good condition in and out, long MoT.
£650 o.n.o.
First to see will buy.
07904 127371.

VW GOLF 1.6 petrol, 03, 67,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, EW, excellent condition, first to see will buy, £1,275 ono. 07542 146679.

BMA www.bma-motors.co.uk
Est. Here 25 Years
54 plate Ford Fiesta, 3 door hatch, 1.4 metallic orange, £1095, Full Mot and Warranties, wide range of cars available
07434 817738
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

classic cars

MORRIS MINOR 1000. 1970. Good running order, Solid body work and chassis. MoT Oct 2016. £2,150. o.n.o. 01902 338537.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer,Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM
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10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
07517 845477
www.driveallseasons.co.uk

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07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £18 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

motorbikes

HONDA CX400 EURO SPORT 1993, Trike, in very good condition. £2,250 Genuine callers only. 07925 251177.

WE BUY BIKES immaculate, as new, garaged / non runners. Cash paid. Peter All Bikes, 01902 312939 bikesallspares@gmail.com

YAMAHA DT125R Y reg, 11 months MoT, good for age, various upgrades, mature owner. £1,245 ono. Call after 5pm 07914 903631.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

WANTED, 50cc motor cycle or scooter, non runner considered, Dudley area. 01384 860838.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
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ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
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For Example:
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Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

spares/parts

ROOF BOXES & BAR package deals from £149.95. Cheapest in Midlands. Wolves Hire 01902 746723. Tettenhall Rd, WV6 0LE.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
www.dudley.gov.uk
LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of application for a Premises Licence (Section 17 of the Act)

HEMLATA SOLANKI of 8 Birdcage Walk, Dudley DY2 7AE

Licensable Activities

For sale of alcohol to be consumed off the premises.

Sales hours from 11:00 to 23:00 from Monday to Sunday.

The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section (see below) between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.00 pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays). An on-line summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk

Any representations by a Responsible Authority of Interested Party must be made in writing within 28 days of this notice to Assistant Director of Law & Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill DY5 1UF

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

DONALD GEORGE EVANS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Sister Dora Nursing Home Milford Stafford ST17 0UH previously of Newfield Drive Kingswinford West Midlands DY6 8HY, who died on 15/06/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 30/09/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
HUGH JAMES
Hodge House 114-116 St Mary Street Cardiff CF10 1DY T477676

10 Personals

personal

SEMI RETIRED GENT
Medium build, no ties, enjoys music, countryside, gardening, meals in or out, days out and holidays, WLTM nice slim lady, with a good sense of humour and young outlook.
Please write to:
Box Number P20439 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

sports clubs

BREWOOD JUNIORS F.C.
UNDER 11'S
Require Goalkeeper for 2016/17 Season.
Staffordshire League.
Contact Tony
07811 376770.

HALAS HAWKS U15
Division 1, SDYFL
We are currently looking for players in all positions.
Please call Julian 07834 819513
Or Richard 07879 032995
For an immediate trial.

STOURBRIDGE UNITED LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM NEED EXPERIENCED PLAYERS
Aged 16 plus to compliment an already talented team entering Birmingham County Womens League Division 2 next season.
We train on a Thursday evening in the Stourbridge area and play Sunday afternoons.
If you are interested please get in touch with Mel Teague on 07482 323594.

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*T&C's apply
Classified Ads

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

IN BANKRUPTCY
DUDLEY COUNTY COURT

NO 116 of 2006 **RE: ALAN BRIDGEWOOD (JUNIOR)**
Who at the date of the bankruptcy order 20th March 2006 resided at 28 St Marks Road, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 0XB.
D.O.B: 3 September 1977
NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed.
I intend to pay within four months from *23rd August 2016* (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 8.11 p/£.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by *23rd August 2016* otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at Second Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, London Road, Manchester M1 3BN or telephone 0161 234 8500 to supply a form.

NO 247 of 2007 **RE: JAYNE ALISON TAYLOR**
Who at the date of the bankruptcy order 20th June 2007 resided at 31 Uplands Avenue, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands B65 9PT.
D.O.B: 11 November 1964
NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed.
I intend to pay within four months from *18th August 2016* (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 16.23 p/£.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by *18th August 2016* otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at Second Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, London Road, Manchester M1 3BN or telephone 0161 234 8500 to supply a form.

NO 426 of 2007 **RE: JOHN BAGLEY**
Who at the date of the bankruptcy order 23rd October 2007, Unemployed, resided at 128 Hanover Road, Rowley Regis, West Midlands B65 9EJ. Lately residing at 301 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury WS10 0QQ.
D.O.B: 9 November 1953
NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the addresses listed.
I intend to pay within four months from *11th August 2016* (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 14 p/£.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by *11th August 2016* (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at LTADT, PO Box 490, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 1YR telephone 01473 383535 to supply a form.
Mr D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience youmay fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

STAR DATING
YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. *REAL people in YOUR region*
Try it.. You'll love it!
Dates in *YOUR* region
Here's how to use your dating service ...
To *Place* your advert call: **0844 381 5936** and follow the simple instructions
To *Place* your ad by text: Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**. *FREE* Standard Network rates apply
YOU can now *Date ONLINE* or via your mobile just visit: **http://dating.shropshirestar.com**
To *Reply* to members call: **0906 500 3724**
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.
Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do *key-it-in promptly* when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.
To *Reply* by text: *Text...* **REPLY22** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY22** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098**. Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.
Been left a message? *Pickup* your replies on: **0906 500 3726**
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.
THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet *you.. visit..* **http://dating.shropshirestar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

CATHY attractive 35yr singleton, varied interests, looking for trustworthy male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423231**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

SARAH 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423093**

ALISON 28, feminine, outgoing, adventurous brunette who knows what she wants, seeks fit, fun loving man to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423061**

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. **Text only Mailbox: 5428223**

SABINA, 35, outgoing attractive brunette, fit and carefree just looking for fun times without complications, maybe more later. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423003**

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423007**

YOUNG, big boobed,single mum. Looking for a fun guy, but wants to be spoiled. Relationship ideally but happy with no strings fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5496828**

ATTRACTIVE slim 54yr old female looking for caring genuine male 50-58 yrs to wine and dine with, share nice times with, please get in touch. **Text only Mailbox: 5395695**

TINA, 41, WLTM Muslim men, Indian Pakistani Kurdish or Turkish for daytime or evening fun, can accommodate, can travel, very discreet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422927**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422257**

MANDY 44, fun flirty blonde, petite size 6-8, gorgeous green eyes seeks special male for friendship and uncomplicated love. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422863**

FEMALE, 33, blue eyes, long blonde hair, pretty, slim, looking for Asian man to have some discreet no strings fun with. **Text only Mailbox: 5495296**

GILL 61, slim dark eyed blonde seeks tall carefree male who is looking for someone special for fun times with no complications. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422843**

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights infront of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appriecates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422009**

SINGLE 40s, seeks Indian Pakistani Kurdish males, for no strings, day or evening fun, I am discreet, I can travel and I can accommodate. Midlands/Stoke on Trent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422921**

ANNE, 40, pretty professional fun female with great curves, looking for fun and romance with down to earth male looking for similar. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422711**

CARING, honest female, WLTM genuine gentleman for LTR in the West Midlands area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422111**

SINGLE tall blonde, 30yrs, bored of life's mundane routines looking for some discreet fun with likeminded man, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423089**

CAROL, 44, brunette with plenty of spare time on her hands seeks special mature male for fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423057**

SARAH 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423093**

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657**

LOVELY Oriental lady in Carmarthenshire seeks older man 70+ to share company and special times and to be a partner. **Text only Mailbox: 5506384**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411459**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363**

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422679**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

JANE, very attractive blonde, own house in lovely village, car etc, loves travel to sunny places, entertaining, exercise WLTM male with similar interests. **Text only Mailbox: 5430085**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

ATTRACTIVE energetic mature lady, looking for well-travelled, solvent companion for holidays, dining out and days away. **Text only Mailbox: 5502846**

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 421605**

BROWN eyed brummie female 65 smoker likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 66 - 73 for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5501142**

JESS, pretty blonde lady. 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Text Only Box: 4000683**

MATURE female 63, large breasted, seeks assertive younger man 30-50 for adult fun. Must be discreet. **Text only Mailbox: 5495834**

KATRIANA, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves men of all ages. Please text me for a chat. **Text Only Box 4148978**

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422469**

JEAN, 75, black hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes dancing, singing, gardening, bingo, meals out, days out, Scotland, WLTM a gentleman any age for company and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422651**

FEMALE 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417233**

ALISON, lonely shy blue eyed blonde, 46, just wanting to be loved, looking for caring man to pamper in return for mutual TLC. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422859**

BARBARA, 44, friendly and outgoing but lonely, seeking similar lonely male to pamper, enjoy fun times and affection with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422839**

MAUREEN, 38, pretty brunette, new to the area and very lonely, looking to meet someone understanding for convenient friendship, 30-60yrs. Can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422815**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421613**

CARING honest female WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

JACKIE 40, slim brunette, with suLTRy green eyes seeks tall guy with nice eyes who understands women, for some really good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422819**

AFRICAN lady, 45 yrs, 5ft 8, slim, sensual, creative, interesting, looking for NSA fun with a man of means. Must be non smoker. **Text only Mailbox: 5475056**

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

SHAUN, short black hair, mixed race, 5ft7, average build, looking for a lady, looks not important but a great personality is a must! Hanley area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423107**

JIMBO, friendly fun loving chap, 42yrs, own building company. Divorced, no kids. Wants a kind caring lady to spoil, any age, single mums welcome. **Text Only Box: 4036422**

IAN, 5ft8, medium build, ohoc, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, wltm similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. **Tel: 0906 515 3040 Box 421345**

MEDIUM build male, single, enjoys days out, country pubs and keep fit, looking for a soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423189**

ADVENTUROUS 36 year old male, dark hair, slim, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417235**

MATURE, passionate male, 30s WLTM a lady, grab the chance while I am single! **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423195**

JOE, semi retired, young looking and acting, slim and fit, 5ft8, considered good company, looking for daytime meets. Let's see if we click. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422803**

MATURE male seeking fun times, Coventry area. **Text only Mailbox: 4830151**

EDDIE, young looking 54, painter and decorator by trade, likes going out and having a good time, sport and all kinds of music, looking for a LTR with a caring, honest, trustworthy person, as I am. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423113**

47 year old guy, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423105**

IRISH widower, 65, 5ft9, GSOH, WLTM a lady for friendship in the North Birmingham area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423071**

IRISH male, 60s, 5ft9, independent, n/s, wishes to meet a lady in the Birmingham area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420859**

DAVE, 54, 5ft10, medium build, easy going, happy, looking for an attractive, loving and caring female, 45-65, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423073**

TALL, attractive male, 62, GSOH, enjoys the normal things in life, going out to staying in, holidays etc, seeks lovely active petite/slimmish lady, 62-72, for an nice relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422931**

MIKE 49, slim, young looks, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship and going out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 356651**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408411**

TALL male 56, seeks close adult fun with open minded woman, 40 to 75, any status or size. **Text only Mailbox: 5410860**

52 yr old male, average build, fit. lonely, seeks a lady for fun times, LTR, soul mate, or discreet dates, can travel. **Text only Mailbox: 5418572**

41YR old male WLTM local lady for no strings fun and meets. Honest, kind, gentlemanly, can't accommodate. Coventry. **Text only Mailbox: 5498485**

MALE, 49, 5ft10, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, GSOH, ohoc, honest, romantic, animal lover, likes country pubs, walks along the canal and countryside, looking for somebody who is down to earth and fun loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 396440**

STAFFORDSHIRE man, 40, loves sport, music, dancing, politics, looking for friendship, possibly relationship, any age/race/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422955**

CARING male, 45, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar qualities. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394149**

MALE 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410845**

SHAUN, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418783**

SEMI retired business man, early 60s, well travelled, fit, tanned, good looking, solvent, very discreet, WLTM a female, 35-55, married or single, for wining, dining daytime fun. West Midlands or Staffs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422805**

MARK, genuine male, 52, considered attractive, home owner, well travelled, likes keeping fit, looking for a lady for my soul mate, first time advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422935**

ANDY, single, 53, looking for a mature, sexy lady, age/looks unimportant, for fun and adventure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422893**

RETIRED male, caring person, looking for friendship. I am into music and I am quite witty. I also like going out on a Saturday night! **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422847**

GENUINE male, 52, attractive, home owner, well travelled, loves live music, keeping fit, first time advertiser hoping to find a soul mate, 35-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422933**

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Coach Richie Carter puts Ryan Cotterell through his paces

George Murrin has been at the club for more than 40 years

Bobby Speed, aged 12, and Lewis Morris, 14, during a sparring session

Richie Carter with club trustees Gary Bate and Nick Griffiths

Young boxing hopefuls get Carter treatment

RICHIE Carter has joined forces with Wolverhampton Boxing Club in a move that will double the fight factory's numbers.

He's returning to his roots at their Willenhall Road site after starring as a youngster at national level himself as an unpaid fighter.

Hailing from nearby East Park, Carter represented the now-defunct Bilston outfit that his late father Alan ran and claimed a full national title in the 1987 junior ABA competition.

He then boxed for England before turning pro at middleweight, featuring another 12 times with 10 wins and just one loss before hanging up his gloves in 1992.

He returned to the sport 20 years later to form his own club, Richie Carter's Golden Gloves, which was based in Essington before moving to Wolverhampton.

A fire that gutted the Bushbury Weights and Fitness Centre, where they were tenants, in May left him and his members homeless.

Impetus

Now 45, Carter is hoping to bring further impetus to a new-look regime, with his fighters set to double the carded combatants ahead of the new season.

The coaching staff will also multiply, with Wolverhampton BC – the oldest club in the city having celebrated its 80th birthday – looking to get busy again after a period of mourning.

Former president, secretary and treasurer John Thomas passed away last September. The 77-year-old had served for 40 years and was regarded as their front of house.

His memory lives on, as does the heritage of the club. Apart from Wolves, it is the only organisation permitted to use the City of Wolverhampton crest.

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Craig Birch

"This was an easy choice and something to get excited about. It's a challenge for me."

Carter, who has become a successful businessman and a married father-of-two since calling time on fighting, feels proud to be given the opportunity to help lead the club into the future.

He said: "To be honest, I felt like jacking it all in when our gym burned down. My lads have had to train all over the shop.

"Me and the trustees at Wolverhampton got in touch through mutual friends. We had a meeting and it's all gone on from there.

"This was an easy choice and something to get excited about. It's a challenge for me. This is one of the oldest boxing establishments going.

"I want to do them justice and that means getting champions out of here in the near future. I know myself how hard is to run a boxing club now and many hands make light work. At points, I never had the time to coach.

"I haven't yet proved how good I can be. I've been to the top and I wanted to take others there. Now I can concentrate on getting these lads and this club back to where it belongs.

"I'm Wolverhampton through and through, everyone knows me around here and I hope I'll get a good response from the local people. I loved 'Tommo', as we all did. I remember even when I was a pro he used to help me out and give me the keys to the gym so I could train during the day.

"Myself, the people who are already there and those who are coming with me all bring something to the table. I expect an extra 10 per cent from everyone now."

Carter will transfer his 10 carded fighters over to his new allegiance, with plans to add more of his prospects as they are cleared in the autumn. Wolverhampton are looking to add a double-figure number themselves.

One of Carter's right-hand men, Gary Sands, is joining him with his younger brother David expected to help out. Tony Evans and Wayne Clenton will do likewise, after taking a course.

Clearance

Dennis Stephenson, Graham McFayden, George Murrin and Marcus Ashman – who doubles up as matchmaker – are already on the coaching staff, with Lee Coldicott also awaiting clearance.

Gary Bate and Nick Griffiths are fully qualified but have been serving in behind-the-scenes roles, as temporary secretary and treasurer respectively, after George Langford left through ill-health.

Carter will get down to business on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The juniors are put through their paces from 6pm to 7pm, before the seniors train until 8.30pm. Ashman runs the same set-up on Tuesdays and Thursdays, around sparring on Wednesday evenings with other clubs.

Advanced classes are held on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings for the carded fighters. All pay just £3 each time.

They train in an Olympic-sized ring once used by Amir Khan, who donated it to the club after training through those ropes for the 2004 Games in Athens.

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An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Sport

Boxing coach Carter's young hopefuls are up for the fight

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Stourbridge FC fixtures

Aug 13	Warrington Town	A
Aug 15	Hednesford Town	H
Aug 20	Ilkeston	H
Aug 23	Frickley Athletic	A
Aug 27	Nantwich Town	A
Aug 29	Barwell	H
Sep 10	Matlock Town	A
Sep 19	Halesowen Town	H
Sep 24	Whitby Town	H
Sep 27	Stafford Rangers	A
Oct 01	Skelmerdale Utd	H
Oct 05	Corby Town	A
Oct 08	Marine	A
Oct 10	Sutton Coldfield	H
Oct 15	Grantham Town	H
Oct 18	Coalville Town	A
Oct 22	Blyth Spartans	A
Oct 31	Corby Town	H
Nov 05	Spennymoor Town	A
Nov 19	Buxton	H
Nov 26	Workington	H
Dec 03	Mickleover Sports	A
Dec 10	Ashton United	A
Dec 17	Spennymoor Town	H
Dec 24	Hednesford Town	A
Dec 26	Rushall Olympic	H
Jan 02	Barwell	A
Jan 07	Warrington Town	H
Jan 14	Skelmersdale Utd	A
Jan 21	Marine	H
Jan 28	Sutton Coldfield	A
Feb 04	Coalville Town	H
Feb 11	Grantham Town	A
Feb 18	Blyth Spartans	H
Feb 25	Whitby Town	A
Feb 27	Stafford Rangers	H
Mar 04	Matlock Town	H
Mar 07	Halesowen Town	A
Mar 11	Mickleover Sports	H
Mar 18	Workington	A
Mar 25	Ashton United	H
Apr 01	Buxton	A
Apr 08	Ilkeston	A
Apr 15	Frickley Athletic	H
Apr 17	Rushall Olympic	A
Apr 22	Nantwich Town	H

Halesowen Town fixtures

Aug 13	Buxton	A
Aug 16	Corby Town	H
Aug 20	Blyth Spartans	H
Aug 23	Nantwich Town	A
Aug 27	Rushall Olympic	A
Aug 29	Hednesford Town	H
Sep 10	Workington	H
Sep 19	Stourbridge	A
Sep 24	Barwell	A
Sep 27	Ilkeston	H
Oct 01	Whitby Town	A
Oct 04	Stafford Rangers	H
Oct 08	Ashton United	H
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Apr 22	Rushall Olympic	H

Firm helps to kit out young players

Avanti MD Lee Capewell, Edward Solly and Kian Bate

Football

FOOTBALL crazy workers at a kitchen company based in Lye hope that the junior and girls teams at Stourbridge FC will be on the ball this season after announcing a new sponsorship deal.

Avanti Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms, located in Hayes Lane, is sponsoring the junior and girls Glassboys teams and providing them with new kits and training outfits.

Managing Director Lee Capewell said all the factory workers were football fans and when England lost to Iceland at the European Championship they decided to try to restore some pride in the game by investing in a local team's youth section.

Stourbridge FC chairman Andy Pountney said: "Having Avanti on board to offer this kind of support will be a real boost for the youngsters who are very eager to get the new season under way and will look great in their new gear – we thank them very much for their support."

All the teams will be wearing the kits from the start of the season next month.

CENTURY OLD LEAGUE FOLDS

THE final whistle has blown on one of the West Midlands' longest running amateur football leagues after more than a century.

The Dudley and Cradley Heath League has been forced to admit defeat following a decline in playing numbers. It had run for 106 years.

After running with just one division last season, the prospect of more drop-outs have left the league with no alternative but to call it a day.

The league was formed in 1910 and its most famous player is Ray Westwood, the Kingswinford-born uncle of the great Duncan Edwards.

Having plied his trade on the local park pitches, Westwood went on to play more than 300 times for Bolton and won six England caps.

Secretary Bryan Sutton, of Wordsley, said: "It is really sad that the league has come to an end. There is just a lack of teams and this is the thing now in Sunday adult football. There will be no organised adult football in Dudley."

He first played in the league as a left-back for Darby's Bakeries in 1967 before going on to serve 47 years on the committee. The combined years service of fixture secretary John Lawton, treasurer Malcolm Guy, president Trevor Lester, chairman Carl Dakin, press secretary Brian Pedley and referees' secretary Mel Lewis, together withcommittee members Rob Nicklin and Fred Whitehouse, adds up to 198.

Sutton, who turns 80 this year, said: "I recently found a handbook from four years ago and we had 28 teams. Of those, one still plays in the Warley League, one plays in the Wolverhampton League and two played with us last season. The other 24 don't exist.

"In 1983/84 we had 118 teams across 10 divisions, and we had 12 cup finals. On May 13, 1984, we had three cup finals on the same day and Blackheath Shell played in two of them – one in the morning and one at night."

"In the 70s, Ashtree Rovers were the dominant side, they played down Old Hill, while in recent years AC Turners have been really strong."

One small consolation fis that the league's most prestigious cup competition – The Dudley Guest Cup – will continue.

League secretary Bryan Sutton takes a look through his scrapbooks

Max has eye on the Golden Hammer

CRADLEY skipper Max Clegg is already casting an eye towards the showpiece Golden Hammer individual event next month.

The club have put together their strongest line-up of the modern era for the meeting at Monmore on Tuesday, August 9, in partnership with Dudley Stroke Association.

Clegg said: "The Golden Hammer is always a massive meeting at Cradley, and with the riders involved it will be a cracking meeting to be riding in.

"I've been in it a few years now, and I came close last year finishing second but I've never won it.

"I'd love to go one better and win it this year, especially in front of the home crowd. I know it's going to be tough, but I don't see why I can't do it."

A big crowd is expected for the 20-heat event, with admission priced at £15 for adults and £12 for concessions whilst kids go free.

Season ticket holders, both adults and concessions, will be admitted for £5 on production of their pass.

Challenge completed in 11 hours

BLACK Country triathletes were well-represented at Upton on Severn for standard and sprint distance races. Both started with a river swim followed by either a 40k or 20k cycle and a 10k or 5k run depending on the race distance.

First home for BCT in the standard was Lee Moreton in 2:16:54, fifth overall and second in age group 40-44. Behind him was Ed Hawkins in 2:19:50, seventh overall and first in age group 45-49, Tim Lake in 2:25:42 and Ed Povey in 2:28:49, first in age group 16-19.

Sue Payton brought the ladies home in the standard race in 2:59:08 followed by Julie Black in 3:04:52, Louise Westbury in 3:14:57, Lorraine Gayton in 3:21:20 and Meg Gregory in 3:25:18.

Three BCT members competed in the sprint. Tim Blewitt came home first in 1:20:51, third in age group 50-54, followed by Lauren Evans in 1:22:17, fifth lady and first in age group 20-24 and Shameer Gopal, who finished in 1:38:15.

Juniors Reece Ashfield and Zoe Brickley entered the British Triathlon Youth Super Sprint Series at Eton Dorney with a 400m swim, 10.6k bike and 2.5k run.

Other juniors raced in the club triathlon at Wombourne. Owen Ulfig and Thea Blakemore were first in the Tristar 1 category, Noah Sandland and Holly Briscoe top in the Tristar 2 age group and Joel Humpage and Ellie Willis first for the Tristar 3 category.

At the 26th Wenlock Olympian Triathlon, Paul Rogers, Chris Pedley, Warren Haynes and Mark Smith took part in a 500m swim, 19km bike and a 7km run.

In the Artemis Great Kindrochit Quadrathlon which involved a 1.35km swim, a 24km run with 7,500ft of climbing, 11km kayak and a 54km bike ride, Mark Anslow finished 10th out 130 entrants in 11 hours 33 minutes.

Steve Blakemore was seventh in age group in the Holkham Half, a 1.2m swim, 56 mile bike and a 13.1 mile run.

Net gain as school players strike gold

WOLLESCOTE Primary ended a successful sporting year by representing Dudley local authority at the Black Country Youth Games.

The school secured gold in the netball, coming from behind to beat Warstones. Their cricketers secured a silver and there was a bronze for tri-golf. The school also entered a multi-skills team.

Deputy head Jim Harrold said: "It has been a great sporting year, with many successes, but importantly plenty of opportunities for our children to experience competitive sport."

★★★

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